

POLICY ON DOCUMENTATION OF OBSERVATIONS AND ANALGESIC THERAPY FOR POST-OPERATIVE RODENTS AND BIRDS

UCAR Action regarding noncompliant pain management and post-surgical documentation with green cards - The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals states "Pain is a stressor and, if not relieved, can lead to unacceptable levels of stress and distress in animals. Furthermore, unrelieved pain may lead to pain response to otherwise nonpainful stimuli (allodynia: Joski and Ogunnaike 2005). For these reasons, the proper use of anesthetics and analgesics in research animals is an ethical and scientific imperative" (The Guide, p.120).

As such, Investigators are required to monitor animals, provide post-procedure analgesia as described in their approved UCAR protocols, and document the observations and analgesic administration appropriately. The observations and administration of pain medication must be documented on a green "Post Op Rodent" cage card.

UCAR is monitoring the documentation of observations and post-operative analgesics to ensure compliance with the written approved protocols. If discrepancies are identified, UCAR will send a letter notifying the Principal Investigator of the noncompliance and will require an action plan to prevent any reoccurrence.

If a second occurrence of failure to administer or document analgesic administration is identified for the same Investigator's lab, UCAR will mandate that DCM mentor the research laboratory staff on appropriate pain management and documentation. DCM will also administer pre-emptive and post-operative analgesics for post-operative animals at the investigator's expense for a minimum period of three months, from the next surgical procedure. Costs (as determined by DCM) associated with analgesic doses and DCM's time to administer the analgesic will be born by the Investigator.

Failure to relieve pain and appropriately document observation and administration of analgesics in an animal can be considered an animal welfare concern and will be discussed by UCAR. Inappropriate dosing of analgesics or failure to appropriately document administration of analgesics can be reported if UCAR votes to do so. If the protocol in which the noncompliance occurred is supported by PHS, a report will be made to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). If the protocol is not supported by PHS, then UCAR may make a report to the Institutional Official, the PI's dean, and their Department Chair.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>

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