TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER. EL PASO

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE
Policy #4
PAIN CATEGORIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL
PROTOCOLS

In concurrence with
TTUHSC El Paso Assurance #D19-01056
and Federal Regulations and Guidelines

Introduction: This policy describes the assignment of pain categories to IACUC protocols at TTUHSC El Paso. Animals are unable to report their subjective experience of pain and distress. However, a guiding principle is that procedures that would cause pain or distress in humans are expected to cause the same sensations in animals.

Each protocol submitted to the IACUC is assigned one of the following pain categories, which are based on the column headings from APHIS Form 7023a *United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Annual Report of Research Facility*. There is no *Category A.* The pain category for each protocol reflects the highest category that any animal may experience within that protocol.

CATEGORY B
Definition - Animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes. This category is automatically assigned to breeding and holding protocols.

CATEGORY C
Definition - Teaching, research, experiments, or tests involving no pain or momentary pain and/or distress, for which pain-relieving drugs are not indicated.
Examples:
• Injections of small amounts of isotonic substances that are not expected to induce pain.
• Blood sampling involving brief restraint and small amount of blood withdrawn without the need for anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilizing drugs or other methods.
• Observation of natural behavior.
• Behavioral testing without significant restraint or noxious stimuli.
• Standard methods of euthanasia that induce rapid unconsciousness, such as an anesthetic overdose.

CATEGORY D
Definition - Experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests that are expected to result in pain or distress to the animals and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs or other methods are used to alleviate the pain or distress.
Examples:
• Experiments on completely anesthetized animals that do not regain consciousness.
• Survival surgery with appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs.
• Experiments that employ humane endpoints.

CATEGORY E
Definition - Experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests that are expected to result in pain or distress to the animals that is not relieved through the use of anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs or other methods.

Examples:

- Surgery or other painful procedures that are performed without the use of appropriate analgesia, because such use would adversely affect the procedures, results, or interpretation of the outcome.
- Experiments that will involve pain, infection, inflammatory and noise studies (levels will need to be approved prior to experimentation).

Protocols in Category E may receive scrutiny from external sources; therefore, the protocol must include (A) an explanation of the procedures producing pain or distress in these animals, (B) the reasons palliative drugs cannot be used, if they are withheld.

Related Policies
Investigators must comply with all other institutional policies at TTUHSC El Paso and Federal Guidelines. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following:

IACUC Policy #19: Humane Endpoints regarding Severe or Chronic Pain or Distress