

# Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

**Standard Operating Procedures** 

Title: Physical	Restraint	<b>Procedures</b>
-----------------	-----------	-------------------

Effective Date:

December 22, 2020

Document Number:

IACUC-SOP-0227.00

Approval/Date:

Jamie Peno
Director, Research Integrity and Compliance

REVISION HISTORY			
Date	Section	Author	

#### **PURPOSE**

Physical restraint may be stressful to the animal and should be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives and is specifically approved by the IACUC. To ensure safety of the animal and personnel, all physical restraint must be described in the protocol with full justification of any prolonged period of restraint for consideration and approval by the IACUC. Convenience alone is not adequate justification for the use of prolonged physical restraint.

#### **SCOPE**

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to describe any method of physical restraint in an approved UNT Animal Use Protocol.

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure personnel responsible for restraint of research animals has documented training to do so and is listed as approved personnel in the UNT AUP.

### **DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

UNT- University of North Texas, Denton
IACUC- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
SOP/SOP's- Standard Operating Procedure(s)
AUP- Animal Use Protocol
PI- Principal Investigator
AV- Attending Veterinarian

# **PROCEDURES**

Page 1 of 2

Document Number: IACUC-SOP-02.27.00

Physical Restraint Procedures

- **I.** Physical restraint is the use of manual or mechanical means to limit some or all of an animal's normal movement for the purpose of examination, collection of samples, drug administration, therapy, or experimental manipulation.
- **II.** All methods of physical restraint should be described in the UNT approved Animal Use Protocol.
  - 1. When prolonged physical restraint is necessary, justification for such must be provided.
  - 2. Alternatives to physical restraint should be considered.
  - 3. The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.
  - 4. Restraint devices should be suitable in size, design, and operation to minimize discomfort, pain, distress, and the potential for injury to the animal and personnel.
  - 5. Restraint devices should not be considered a normal method of housing and must be justified in the animal use protocol.
  - 6. Restraint devices should not be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
  - 7. Animals to be placed in restraint devices should be given documented acclimation training (with positive reinforcement) to adapt to the equipment and personnel prior to extended use or procedures being performed under restraint.
    - a) Animals that fail to adapt should be removed from the study.
  - 8. Provision should be made for observation of the animal at appropriate intervals, as determined by the IACUC. Some species and forms of restraint may require constant observation.
  - 9. Veterinary care must be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed.
    - a) The presence of lesions, illness, or severe behavioral change often necessitates the temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint, as deemed by the Veterinarian.
  - 10. The purpose of the restraint and its duration should be clearly explained in the AUP and to trained personnel involved with the study.

## **REFERENCES**

- 1. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
- 2. Animal Welfare Act.

# **APPENDICES**

**IACUC Standard Operating Procedures**