CLINICAL CONDITIONS WARRANTING ADDITIONAL VETERINARY SUPPORT

PERFORMANCE STANDARD: To provide adequate veterinary care for all research animals maintained at Duke University Medical Center (DUMC).

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE: The Animal Welfare Act (AWA), Public Health Service (PHS) Policy, and the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” (Guide) require the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Attending Veterinarian to provide oversight for all animal health and welfare issues. Some clinical cases warrant provision of ‘intensive and/or critical care’ to meet current standards of veterinary care. The IACUC expects researchers at the Duke Lemur Center (DLC) and the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) will seek veterinary care whenever clinical conditions arise that are outside of the scope of the approved protocol.

ROLES:
1. Researchers encountering animals in conditions that warrant monitoring in an intensive care setting must notify DLAR/DLC immediately.
2. DLAR/DLC will provide the necessary support to the investigator to assure quality animal care is provided regardless of location.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES REQUIRED: Personnel protective equipment is required as appropriate to the species and any treatments being given.

POLICY OUTLINE:
1. Humane endpoints, as defined in approved animal care and use protocol, take priority and must be upheld by the responsible PI.
2. Some spontaneously occurring, post-operative, and post-procedural conditions are generally accepted as significant health concerns and require more intensive monitoring. This level of care allows for the provision of continuous treatment, including euthanasia, when conditions deteriorate in order to limit pain or distress that might be experienced.
3. Location options:
   a. DLAR/DLC have the capability of setting up species-specific housing that is suitable for provision of intensive and/or critical care, that is available for use upon request.
   b. Principal Investigators (PI) may provide an appropriate setting that meets all potential equipment monitoring, veterinary access, and infusion needs. Investigator-operated units must be staffed sufficiently with individuals trained in intensive and/or critical care medicine (i.e. catheter placement and maintenance, emergency resuscitative drug use, CRI, etc.). DLAR/DLC should be involved in the development and
outfitting of the investigator-managed intensive care setting, to assist the investigator in assuring all institutional expectations are met.

4. Serious health conditions should result in immediate consultation with DLAR/DLC veterinary staff or immediate euthanasia of the animal.
   a. If the event was anticipated in the approved protocol, then the PI must provide medical intervention as described in the approved protocol unless otherwise instructed by DLAR/DLC veterinary staff.
   b. If the event was NOT anticipated in the approved protocol, then the PI must provide medical intervention until DLAR/DLC veterinary staff are able to respond unless otherwise instructed by DLAR/DLC veterinary staff.

5. Conditions that might warrant humane euthanasia, instead of continuing intensive care (in consultation with DLAR/DLC veterinary staff) could include:
   a. Treatment which would not provide a reasonable expectation for recovery,
   b. Treatment which would not provide a reasonable expectation for future use as a viable research/data subject, or
   c. Pain and/or distress which cannot be adequately managed.

6. Some examples of conditions which might occur (conditions that were not anticipated in the approved protocol) and which could require an enhanced treatment paradigm include:
   a. Inability of the animal to feed or drink;
   b. Central nervous system abnormalities (e.g., seizures, paralysis, failure to respond to tactile stimulation);
   c. Conditions requiring repeated intravenous correction of fluid balance or administration of drugs;
   d. Continuing cardiac arrhythmias;
   e. non-weight bearing conditions that exceed 2 days;
   f. Inability of patient to maintain normothermia;
   g. Unresolved respiratory compromise;
   h. Pain that requires continuous analgesia to manage;
   i. Self-mutilation;

NOTE: Review of the companion policy Veterinary Authority over Animals Being Used for Research and/or Testing at Duke University is recommended.