

Division of Laboratory Animal Resources

Policy on the Transfer of post-surgical USDA regulated species from Principal Investigator to DLAR Veterinary staff

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To define the procedural expectations, which principal investigators (PI) must follow, when returning USDA regulated species to home cages in DLAR managed facilities.

2.0 Responsibility

- 2.1 Any individual performing survival surgery on a USDA regulated animal per an approved DIACUC protocol is responsible for ensuring the proper transfer back to its home cage.
- 2.2 Unless DLAR is contacted in advance and agrees to provide all immediate post-operative care, the principal investigator is responsible for monitoring and documenting recovery of an animal until it is able to achieve and maintain sternal recumbency on its own.

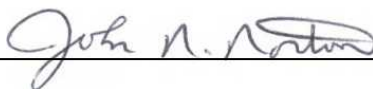
3.0 Procedure

- 3.1 When an animal is sufficiently recovered from anesthesia and meets the following criteria, it may be returned to its home cage:
- 3.1.1 No additional emergency analgesics are needed (e.g. Fentanyl, oxymorphone, or morphine).
 - 3.1.2 Animal maintains normal body temperature without secondary heat source for a minimum of one hour.
 - 3.1.3 Animal can achieve and maintain sternal recumbency.
 - 3.1.4 Animal is alert and responsive to touch and/or sound.
 - 3.1.5 Animal maintains expected post-operative parameters per approved protocol.
 - 3.1.6 Animal does not vocalize abnormally.
 - 3.1.7 No surgical complications are present such as bleeding, incisional dehiscence, vomiting, respiratory distress, neurological signs, etc.
- 3.2 The PI must notify DLAR veterinary staff in one of the following methods when the animal is being transferred to DLAR:
- 3.2.1 During normal work hours, contact a DLAR veterinary technician or veterinarian to notify them of the animal being returned. DLAR personnel may observe or assess animal before accepting the animal. The DLAR representative contacted will note and initial in the animal's record that they have been properly notified of the transfer.
 - 3.2.2 During evening or weekend hours, page the veterinary technician or veterinarian on call to notify them of the animal being returned. The DLAR individual may approve the transfer by phone or may ask the PI to wait until the DLAR veterinary staff member can observe and assess the animal before acceptance. (It is expected that surgery of USDA regulated species will not occur after hours or on weekends without prior approval by DLAR veterinary staff).
 - 3.2.2.1 In the instances where DLAR anesthesia support has been contracted for the entire surgical procedure, the PI is still expected to monitor and document the recovery until the animal is able to achieve and maintain sternal recumbency (unless prior arrangements have been made with DLAR), however the **notification** of transfer of the animal can be made to the DLAR staff member providing anesthesia support at the end of the surgical procedure.

4.0 Version

- 4.1 Version 1.0, December 15, 2004

Director, Laboratory Animal Resources:



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