

**SEATTLE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
OPERATING POLICIES / PROCEDURES**

**DEPARTMENT:** Institutional Animal Care and Use  
Committee  
**POLICY NUMBER:** IACUC-025  
**REPLACES:**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 10, 2005  
**REVISION DATE:** 4/13/2011  
**POSTED FROM:**

**TITLE:** Criteria For Review Of Protocols Involving Prolonged Physical  
Restraint

**SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a uniform method for IACUC review of animal use protocols involving prolonged restraint.

**DEFINITION:**

<sup>1</sup> "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. Animals are restrained for brief periods, usually minutes, in most research applications."

**POLICY/PROCEDURE:**

- 025-1 Restraint devices should be suitable in size, design, and operation to minimize discomfort or injury to the animal.
- 025-2 Prolonged restraint should be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives, and is approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). When used, restraint devices should be specifically designed to accomplish research goals that are impossible to accomplish by other means.
- 025-3 The <sup>1</sup> *Guide* offers the following guidelines when considering the use of prolonged restraint devices:
- 025-3.1 They are not to be considered normal methods of housing.

## Criteria For Review Of Protocols Involving Prolonged Physical Restraint

- 025-3.2 They should not be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
- 025-3.3 The period of restraint should be the minimum time required to accomplish the research objectives. The maximum time period of restraint allowed is 4 hours.
- 025-3.4 Animals to be placed in restraint devices should be given training to adapt to the equipment and personnel.
- 025-3.5 Provision should be made for observation of the animal at appropriate intervals, as determined by the IACUC.
- 025-3.6 Veterinary care should be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. The presence of lesions, illness, or severe behavioral change often necessitates temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint.

**REFERENCES:**

<sup>1</sup> National Research Council, "The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals". National Academy Press; Washington DC. 1996.

Submitting Office: Office of Institutional Assurances

Approved by:

\s\ Anne Clancy, IACUC Chairperson, 4/12/2011

\s\ William R. Morton, VMD, Attending Veterinarian, 4/13/2011

\s\ Mason Craig Bailey, Manager/Office of Animal Care, 4/4/2011