

Policies and Procedures

SECTION: IACUC	NUMBER: 7.30			
CHAPTER: Miscellaneous Experimental Animal Use Policies	ISSUED: 8/2016	REV. A:	REV. B:	REV. C:
POLICY: Physical Restraint	REV. D:	REV. E:		

Purpose

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.

Restraint devices are to be suitable in size, design, and operation to minimize discomfort, pain, distress and the potential for injury to the animal and the research staff. When devices are used, they are to be specifically designed to accomplish research goals that are impossible or impractical to accomplish by other means or to prevent injury to animals or personnel.

Prolonged restraint for longer than 15 minutes, is to be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives. Systems that do not limit an animal's ability to make normal postural adjustments should be used when compatible with protocol objectives.

Application

For any physical restraint:

- Restraint devices are not considered a normal method of housing and not to be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
- The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the scientific objectives. Animals that fail to adapt are to be removed from the study.
- Veterinary care must be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. The presence of lesions, illness or severe behavioral changes often necessitates the temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint.

For prolonged restraint:

- Restraint devices are to be justified in the animal use protocol.
- Alternatives to physical restraint are to be considered.
- Animals placed in restraint devices should be given training to adapt to the equipment and personnel.
- Animals in restraint devices are to be observed at appropriate intervals, as determined by the IACUC and approved in the protocol.

Regulations

Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, in accordance with 9 CFR, Ch.1 Part 3- Standards-Subpart D, 3.81d. Restraint Devices

Guide for the Care of and Use of Laboratory Animals, ILAR, NAS, pg 29 Physical Restraint