Georgia State University
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
(IACUC)
It is the responsibility of the Georgia State University (GSU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure judicious and humane use of animals used in its teaching and research programs that is consistent with federal requirements.*

Major versus Minor Surgical Procedures and Multiple Major Survival Procedures on a Given Animal

Surgical procedures are defined as major or minor by the IACUC and Attending Veterinarian on a case-by-case basis. The following definitions will apply as a general guideline.
A. Major survival surgery: Any surgical intervention that penetrates and exposes a body cavity, produces substantial impairment of physical or physiologic functions, or involves extensive tissue dissection or transection.
B. Minor survival surgery: Minor survival surgery does not expose a body cavity and causes little or no physical impairment; this category includes wound suturing, peripheral vessel cannulation through a skin incision, and the like.

Regardless of whether the surgeries are classified as major or minor, multiple survival surgical procedures must be evaluated by the IACUC to determine their impact on animal wellbeing. No animal assigned to a protocol is to be used in more than one major survival operative procedure unless:
1. The multiple procedures are included within one protocol;
2. The Principal Investigator provides scientific justification in the protocol; and
3. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) provides its approval.

Pertinent Regulations*
U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training
Public Health Service Policy
Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and AWA Regulations

IACUC Approval Date:
Signature IACUC Chair:
Revision Dates: