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.*

Prolonged Physical Restraint

The Guide has special language addressing prolonged restraint of animals while they are conscious. In general, restraint for all animals should be the least restrictive and for the shortest time necessary to complete research objectives. Prolonged restraint, including chairing of nonhuman primates, should be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives and is specifically approved by the IACUC. Systems that do not limit an animal’s ability to make normal postural adjustments (e.g., subcutaneous implantation of osmotic mini-pumps in rodents) should be used when compatible with protocol objectives. Animals that do not adapt to necessary restraint systems should be removed from the study. When restraint devices are used, they should 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.

The following are important guidelines for restraint:

- Restraint devices should not be considered a normal method of housing, and must be justified in the animal use protocol.
- Restraint devices should not be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
- Alternatives to physical restraint should be considered.
- The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.
- Animals to be placed in restraint devices should be given training (with positive reinforcement) to adapt to the equipment and personnel.
- Animals that fail to adapt should be removed from the study.
- Provision should be made for observation of the animal at appropriate intervals, as determined by the IACUC.
• Veterinary care must be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. The presence of lesions, illness, or severe behavioral change often necessitates the temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint.

• The purpose of the restraint and its duration should be clearly explained to personnel involved with the study.

**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

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