Institutional Animal Care & Use Program - UTEP	
Title: Categorizing Pain and Distress of Procedures	
Policy#: 0 3 2	**Date in Effect**: 27 January 2025
Version #: A	**Rev Date**:
In Effect ☒ **Rescinded** ☐	**Date Rescinded**:

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all personnel using animals at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to abide by this policy. If an exception is needed it is the responsibility of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to review for approval such requests for an exception to this policy.

B) APPLICATION

This policy applies to all animal use in research and teaching at UTEP.

C) DEFINITIONS

1) Pain: An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage.

2) Distress: A state in which an animal cannot escape from or adapt to the external or internal stressors or conditions that it experiences resulting in negative effects upon its well-being.

D) POLICY

1) The USDA Animal Care Policy Manual defines painful or distressing procedures as "any procedure that would reasonably be expected to cause more than slight or momentary pain or distress in a human being to which that procedure is applied." UTEP, like many institutions, has extrapolated USDA categories to cover all species on campus.

2) Category B covers animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching or research, but not yet used for such purposes.

3) Category C covers animals used in teaching or research that involve no pain or

distress, or only momentary or slight pain or distress that would not require anesthetic, analgesic or tranquilizing agents.

4) Category D covers animals used in teaching or research where appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, euthanasia, or tranquilizing agents are used to avoid pain or distress.

5) Category E covers animals used in teaching or research involving pain or distress to the animals and for which the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, tranquilizing drugs or euthanasia will adversely affect the procedures, results, or interpretation of the teaching or research. If animals are listed in this category, detailed justification must be provided in the protocol.

6) Classification of Common Procedures

Category B	Category C	Category D	Category E
1. Animals for breeding to maintain colony 2. Offspring of improper sex or genotype 3. Any animal not used for teaching or research	1. Momentary physical restraint 2. Observation of animal behavior 3. Blood collection (SC, IP, IV, IM, ID) 4. Drug/cell administration (SC, IP, IV, IM, ID) 5. Rodent tail tip sampling (<21d) 6. Animal identification 7. Positive reinforcement training	1. Blood collection (RO, IC) 2. Drug/cell administration (RO, IC) 3. Tissue collection under anesthesia 4. Terminal surgery 5. Survival surgery using aseptic technique and analgesia 6. Non-invasive imaging of animals with anesthesia 7. Use of a therapeutic agent to treat an induced or heritable disease process	1. Toe clipping 2. Prolonged restraint 3. Prolonged fasting or food/water restriction 4. Survival surgery where analgesics cannot be administered 5. Death as an endpoint 6. Exposure to extreme or abnormal environment 7. Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis 8. Models that induce paralysis

		8. Induction of diabetes controlled with insulin or equivalent	9. Untreated diabetes models 10. Tumor models that cause adverse effects including ulceration 11. Metastatic tumor models 12. Housing mice in metabolic or wire-bottom caging 13. Behavioral tests (Forced swim or exercise, fear conditioning, tail suspension, resident-intruder, inescapable electric shock) 14. Toxicological or untreated infectious disease models that result in clinical signs or death 15. Traumatic brain injury, stroke, or shock models

REFERENCES:

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. (2023, August 31). *Categorizing animal pain or distress in research facility* ... USDA. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. (2023, August 31). Categorizing animal pain or distress in research facility ... USDA. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ac-tech-note-categorizing-animal-pain-or-distress.pdf

Review History	
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