

Institutional Animal Care & Use Program - UTEP	
Title: Multiple Survival Surgeries Policy	
Policy#: 030	Date in Effect: 16 December 2024
Version #: A	Rev Date:
In Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescinded	Date Rescinded:

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all personnel using animals at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to abide by this policy. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) before implementation.

2. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all faculty animal users engaged in research and teaching at UTEP.

3. INTRODUCTION

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (the *Guide*, NRC 2011) and the USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations state that multiple survival surgical procedures on a single animal require scientific justification by the Principal Investigator (PI). Further, the *Guide* states that multiple surgeries on a single animal should be evaluated to determine their impact on the animal's well-being. The number of survival surgeries must be limited to the minimum number to achieve the research objectives and must be determined with due consideration to minimizing pain and distress in any one animal.

4. POLICY

Multiple survival surgical procedures on a single animal must be described in the IACUC protocol and scientific justification must be provided. The only exception is when multiple surgeries are needed to protect the health of an animal, as determined by the Attending Veterinarian (AV). Cost savings is not an adequate justification for multiple survival surgeries. Justification must include an explanation of the need to have an animal undergo multiple survival surgeries, the name of the surgeries, the total number of surgeries an animal will undergo, the frequency of the procedures, the period of time between procedures, and the methods used to minimize pain and distress. It is recommended that the PI provide references when possible. Adequate time between procedures must be provided so that the animal can return to pre-surgical

homeostasis (e.g.; return to pre-surgical weight and hydration status, etc.). Supportive care and adequate analgesia must be provided to the animals between procedures. The IACUC may require periodic reporting from the PI to track the outcomes of the multiple survival procedures.