Memo

From:
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

To:
Faculty, Staff, and Students involved in vertebrate animal-based research teaching or outreach

Date:
January 22, 2015

Re: Update and implementation of rodent surgery record keeping; update on rodent anesthetics and analgesics

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**Rodent Anesthetics and Analgesics**

In an effort to maintain compliance with up-to-date research animal veterinary practice the Marquette University Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has updated its guidelines for rodent anesthesia and analgesia (attached). Updates include; most commonly used anesthetic drugs and their combinations, suggested dose and route, as well as comments on the effects of the drug on the animal. Analgesics updates include; separation of opioid and NSAID for research purposes, the most common dosage and route, if a DEA license is needed, and comments about the analgesic effects. One of the major updates to this policy regards the use of oral analgesics.

The use of oral analgesia will continue to be allowed in our program, but we must maintain compliance with federal and state regulatory agencies. The IACUC has created a policy on the use of oral analgesia in research animals (attached) that can be used as a reference. Adherence to this policy is mandatory. **All animal research must be in compliance with this policy by April 1, 2015.** Updates include; labeling of cage and/or water bottle that contains analgesics and appropriate monitoring and record keeping of analgesics. **If analgesics are given in the drinking water the amount of water consumption must be measured and recorded.** Please read the attached policy for both the use of oral analgesics in research animals as well as the updated guidelines for rodent anesthesia and analgesia.

**Surgical Forms and Record Keeping**

Again, in an effort to maintain compliance with up-to-date research animal veterinary practice and appropriate record keeping requirements established by federal and state regulatory agencies the IACUC has revised the surgical form (attached) that is required for all rodent survival or non-survival surgeries. Updates include; check off boxes for pre-surgical analgesics used, anesthesia and analgesics used at the time of surgery, intra-operative monitoring and observation check boxes, and check off boxes for post-surgical analgesics used. This is a suggested surgical log template that the IACUC has approved. PIs can make additions to this form for their surgical procedures but, all the requested information must be provided. Representatives from the IACUC will need to review and approve each labs surgical log before use if changes are made to the standard form.
New Record Keeping Cage Cards
An ongoing deficiency that is noted in the animal care and use program is the lack of uniform record keeping for surgeries, surgical records, as well as experimental records (i.e. animal weights on restricted diets). The IACUC/ARC will be implementing the following cage card to be used:

Weight Record Cage Card – The weight record cage card must be placed on a cage of any animal whose weight is being measured and recorded according to what is written in the IACUC approved protocol. This is particularly important for animals that are under a food or fluid restriction as weighing and recording weight is mandatory. This additional cage card will allow instant access to the animals’ information for health observation and for facility and/or program oversight.

Surgical Cage Card – The surgical cage card must be placed on a cage of an animal who has gone through any surgical procedure. This surgical cage card is an extension of the surgical log form and will allow instant access to the animals’ information for health observation and oversight. The cage card is two sided and must be completed with the initial surgical information as well as daily post-surgical monitoring and check off record keeping.

The ARC will print and provide these cage cards to all animal users.

The goal of the IACUC is to have these updates provided and in use by the time of our next accreditation site visit from AAALAC (summer of 2015). Austin will be in contact with you and your laboratory staff in order to schedule a meeting to discuss the implementation of the new guidelines as well as to answer any questions that you may have.

Best regards,

Doug Lobner, Ph.D.
IACUC Chair

Dr. Berri Forman, DVM
Consulting Veterinarian

Mr. Austin Fritsch
Research Compliance Officer – IACUC & IBC
Director – Animal Resource Center