



UCA IACUC Animal Care and Use USDA Pain and Distress Classifications

All vertebrate animals used for research or teaching must be assigned to a USDA pain and distress category on the protocol under which they are used. Procedures that could cause pain or distress in humans should be assumed to cause pain or distress in other animals. Please use the following definitions and examples of pain and distress to determine the appropriate classification for your research project.

| Classification B | Classification C | Classification D | Classification E |
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| Animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes. | Teaching, research, experiments, or tests conducted involving no pain, distress, or use of pain relieving drugs | Experiments, teaching, research, experiments, or tests conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs were used | Teaching, experiments, research, surgery, or tests conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs would have adversely affected the procedures, results, or interpretation of the teaching, research, experiments, surgery, or tests |
| Examples | Examples | Examples | Examples |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breeding colonies of any animal species including parent and offspring 2. Newly acquired animals 3. Animals held under captive conditions or wild animals being observed | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding or weighing animals in teaching or research activities. 2. Euthanasia to relieve pain and/or distress 3. Injections, blood collection or catheter implantation via superficial vessels. 4. Teaching routine physical examinations. 5. Observation of animal behavior. 6. Humane euthanasia procedures that meet AVMA standards. 7. Live trapping with minimal potential for injury. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diagnostic procedures such as laparoscopy or needle biopsies. 2. Non-survival surgical procedures. 3. Survival surgical procedures, including biopsies and cut-downs for catheter placement. 4. Postoperative pain or distress is alleviated. 5. Blood collection by more invasive routes such as intracardiac or periorbital 6. Induced infections with appropriate anesthesia and post-op/post-procedure analgesia when necessary. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application of noxious chemicals or stimuli (e.g., electrical shock) if the animal cannot avoid/escape the stimuli, and/or it is severe enough to cause pain or distress. 2. Novel prolonged restraint 3. Infectious or neoplastic disease studies involving unrelieved pain or distress 4. Surgical and post-surgical sequel from hard or soft tissue damage that produces unrelieved pain or distress |