



IACUC Policy 500 : Physical Restraint Policy

1. Definitions of Key Terms Specific to this Policy

A. **Physical restraint:** is defined in the Guide as “the use of manual or mechanical means to limit some or all of an animal’s normal movement for the purpose of examination, collection of samples, drug administration, therapy, or experimental manipulation.” Animals are physically restrained for brief periods, usually minutes, in many research applications.

B. **Prolonged physical restraint:** is defined by IACUC as physical restraint of unanesthetized animals for ≤ 30 minutes in a natural body position or ≤ 10 minutes in an unnatural body position. Restraint procedures **must** be detailed in the animal use protocol.

2. Guidelines for the restraint

A. Restraint devices are not to be considered normal methods of housing, or be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.

B. Alternatives to physical restraint should be considered.

C. The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.

D. When restraint devices are used, for short or prolonged periods, 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 use and type of restraint devices must be described clearly in the IACUC animal use protocol.

E. Animals to be placed in restraint devices should be given training (with positive reinforcement) to adapt to the equipment and personnel

F. Provision should be made for observation of the animal at appropriate intervals, as determined by the IACUC.

G. 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.

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