

EMORY UNIVERSITY POLICY:

I. ANESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA IN NONHUMAN PRIMATES

The selection of the most appropriate analgesic or anesthetic shall reflect professional judgment as to which best meets clinical and humane requirements without compromising the scientific aspects of the research protocol. Anesthesia and analgesics used in research projects shall be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to use. Controlled drugs used must be purchased, stored, and used according to regulations of the Drug Enforcement Administration, State of Georgia, and Emory University. Formal monitoring of animals following anesthesia is required to ensure the animal does not experience any difficulties during recovery. Administration of anesthetics and analgesics and monitoring animals recovering from anesthesia will be performed by trained individuals.

II. PROCEDURE:

1. Procedures that may cause stress and pain shall be accomplished using anesthesia, analgesia, or tranquilization. Any deviation from this policy requires explicit IACUC approval. Because of the nature of nonhuman primates, most procedures requiring access shall be done under chemical restraint in order to eliminate or minimize stress, pain or injury to the animal and to prevent injury or disease exposure to the human handlers. In some cases, (e.g. minor procedures such as blood collection or tuberculin testing), access may be accomplished without the use of an anesthetic agent in nonhuman primates that are adequately trained and habituated to the procedures.
2. Appropriately trained individuals will monitor animals following anesthesia, document this monitoring activity, and report any adverse observations or clinical problems immediately to the veterinary staff. The documentation of monitoring activity will include the time of induction of anesthesia, the time of each observation, initials of the individual conducting the monitoring and any comment. Animals accessed in groups may be monitored in groups; however, any indication of problem or abnormality will include specific animal(s) identity. Written documentation of post anesthetic monitoring will be maintained along with other experimental or clinical records.
3. The individual administering the anesthetic or analgesic has the primary responsibility for insuring that appropriate monitoring is conducted. This shall be accomplished either by personally conducting the monitoring or by arranging to have the monitoring accomplished by another appropriately trained individual. The timing of post anesthetic monitoring will be determined based on the general schedule presented below along with any other relevant factors that might influence the course of recovery (e.g. anesthetic agent used, dose and frequency of administration, animal's clinical condition and history with prior anesthetic episodes, age, etc.). Individuals shall consult with a clinical veterinarian if in doubt regarding the appropriate schedule for monitoring.
4. Upon completion of the procedure requiring anesthesia, the animal shall be returned to a recovery cage or its home cage. The animal shall be placed on its side, making sure airway is unobstructed and it shall be checked at appropriate intervals to insure that recovery is progressing normally.
 - a. The initial monitoring intervals shall range from continuous (e.g. following surgery) to intervals of 3 to 5 minutes (e.g. where warranted by factors in 3 above)) to between 15 to 30 minutes (routine circumstances) after placement in the cage, with the specific schedule based on professional judgment depending on the factors noted above. This initial phase continues until the animal attempts to lift head. At that point, the animal is considered recovered and written documentation for that episode is considered complete.
 - b. Subsequent checks (where necessary) shall occur at longer intervals, ranging from 30 minutes to two hours, until the animal is sitting, standing or ambulatory.
 - c. The time required for recovery will be recorded in the animal's record or on the log for group accesses.
 - d. If the animal is housed socially, it should not be returned to group housing until it is fully mobile and responding normally to visual and auditory stimuli.
5. Individuals must be appropriately trained to administer analgesics or anesthetics and to monitor animals recovering from anesthesia. This training may be accomplished by working with a supervisor who has the requisite training and experience, by working with a veterinarian in the conduct of these procedures, and/or having a veterinarian provide supervisory oversight of the individual being trained.