

USDA Category B (scroll down to see all 4 categories – two pages)

Definition: Animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes.

Examples of USDA Category B procedures:

1. Animals in breeding colonies.
2. Animals being held in UTSA colonies but not yet used in research or teaching activities.

USDA Category C

Definition: Animals upon which teaching, research, experiments, or tests were conducted involving no pain, distress, or use of pain-relieving drugs. Routine procedures (e.g., injections, tattooing, blood sampling) should be reported with this group.

Examples of USDA Category C procedures:

3. Holding or weighing animals in teaching or research activities.
4. Injections, blood collection or catheter implantation via superficial vessels.
5. Tattooing animals.
6. Tail snipping of rodents. (See UTSA [IACP Policy 002](#) for guidance)
7. Ear punching of rodents.
8. Routine physical examinations.
9. Observation of animal behavior.
10. Feeding studies, which do not result in clinical health problems.
11. AVMA approved humane euthanasia procedures.
12. Routine agricultural husbandry procedures.
13. Live trapping.
14. Positive reward projects.

USDA Category D

Definition: Animals upon which experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests are conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs were used.

Examples of USDA Category D procedures:

1. Diagnostic procedures such as laparoscopy or needle biopsies.
2. Non-survival surgical procedures.
3. Survival surgical procedures.
4. Post operative pain or distress.
5. Ocular blood collection in mice.
6. Terminal cardiac blood collection.
7. Any post procedural outcome resulting in evident pain, discomfort or distress such as that associated with decreased appetite/ activity level, adverse reactions, to touch, open skin lesions, abscesses, lameness, conjunctivitis, corneal edema and photophobia.
8. Exposure of blood vessels for catheter implantation.
9. Exsanguination under anesthesia.
10. Induced infections or antibody production with appropriate anesthesia and post-op/post-procedure analgesia when necessary.

USDA Category E

Definition: Animals upon which teaching, experiments, research, surgery, or tests are 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. An explanation of the procedures producing pain or distress in these animals and the reasons such drugs were not used shall be attached to the annual report.

Examples of USDA Category E procedures:

1. Toxicological or microbiological testing, cancer research or infectious disease research that requires continuation until clinical symptoms are evident or death occurs.
2. Ocular or skin irritancy testing.
3. Food or water deprivation beyond that necessary for ordinary pre-surgical preparation.
4. Application of noxious stimuli such as electrical shock if the animal cannot avoid/escape the stimuli and/or it is severe enough to cause injury or more than momentary pain or distress.
5. Infliction of burns or trauma.
6. Prolonged restraint.