

UTSA SURVIVAL RODENT SURGERY CHECKLIST

A. SURGICAL LOCATION

		YES	NO
1	Is the designated surgery area disinfected before surgery?		
2	Is hair removed in a location other than where surgery is performed? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separation of prep area and surgical area.		
3	Is the surgical area in a low traffic area of the lab?		
4	Is the surgical area away from air vents?		

B. SURGICAL ANIMAL

		YES	NO
1	Is ophthalmic ointment applied to eyes immediately upon induction of anesthesia?		
2	Is skin scrubbed at least 3 times with chlorhexidine SCRUB followed by 70% alcohol?		
3	Is chlorhexidine SOLUTION applied to skin after the last alcohol application?		
4	Is a rear toe vigorous pinch conducted before making the incision to ensure the animal is in a surgical plane of anesthesia?		
5	Are warmed fluids administered prior to surgery? Saline or lactated Ringer's Solution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommended dose is:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 5-10 ml for adult rats○ 0.5-1 ml for adult mice		
6	Is a sterile drape placed over surgery animals?		
7	Is the surgical area (bench / table top) covered with a sterile drape to place sterile items on this surface?		
8	How are surgery animals monitored during surgery?		
9	Is other supportive care, such as antibiotics, etc. administered as per protocol? (List)		
10	Is tissue hydration maintained during surgery?		

C. PREVENTION OF HYPOTHERMIA

		YES	NO
1	Is an external heat source used to minimize hypothermia?		

D. INSTRUMENTS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT

		YES	NO
1	Are instruments sterile?		
2	How are instruments sterilized?		
3	How is sterilization verified?		
4	Are items / materials (cannulas, gauze, Q-tips, implants, etc.) used in surgery sterilized?		
5	How are items / materials sterilized?		
6	How is sterilization verified?		
7	Are sterile items placed on a sterile surface / drape?		
8	If items outside the sterile field need to be touched with sterile gloves (such as knobs and dials of stereotaxic apparatus, microscope, anesthesia machine, etc.), are they covered with Press'n Seal, autoclaved aluminum foil or any other sterile item, or at minimum wiped with disinfectant prior to surgery?		

E. SURGEON

		YES	NO
1	Does the surgeon wear a long sleeve gown or clean lab coat, head cover, face mask and sterile surgical gloves? (non-sterile exam gloves are not acceptable)		
2	Can the surgeon describe how to properly don sterile gloves?		
3	Are these items available in the lab, including the correct size of sterile surgical gloves for each individual performing surgery?		

F. PAIN CONTROL

		YES	NO
1	Are analgesics administered according to protocol?		
2	What analgesics are administered? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-OP (are local anesthetics utilized at the surgical site (lidocaine/bupivacaine) • Post-OP 		

G. RECOVERY

		YES	NO
1	Are animals provided an external heat source to prevent hypothermia during recovery? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How / where is the heat source placed?		
2	Are animals continually monitored until they regain the righting reflex?		
3	Are animals observed for at least 5 days post op?		
4	If external sutures or clips were applied are animals observed daily until sutures or clips are removed?		
5	If external sutures or clips were applied, are they removed 10-14 days post op?		
6	Are the animals provided any supportive care (warmed fluids, gel cups, etc.) to enhance recovery? (List below)		
7	Are the animals placed in clean / new cages post-surgery?		

H. SERIAL SURGERIES

		YES	NO
1	Is the first set of instruments autoclaved?		
2	Are the instruments cleaned / disinfected between surgeries?		
3	Is a hot bead sterilizer used to sterilize the tip of the instruments?		
4	Is a new sterile drape placed over each new animal?		
5	Is a new scalpel blade used for each new animal surgery?		
6	Are new sterile gloves donned before each new animal surgery?		
7	Are instruments used on no more than 5 animals per initially sterilized instrument set?		

I. TRAINING

		YES	NO
1	Has the surgeon performed / practiced this procedure to become proficient before conducting surgery the first time in the experimental animals?		

J. RECORD KEEPING

		YES	NO
1	Does the staff record their daily post op checks and drug administration (analgesia, antibiotics, etc.) on the green surgery cage card as required by the IACUC?		