

Institutional Animal Care Program (IACP)	
Title: Counting Fetal and Neonatal Rodents	
Policy number IACP 016	Date in Effect: 03/23/10
Revision 2, 12/07/20	Re-reviewed Date: 02/14/25, no changes
In Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescinded <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Rescinded:

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all personnel using animals in research and teaching to ensure that counting, manipulation and disposition of unweaned rodents (including fetuses) that are bred for the sole purpose of harvesting tissue and cells to follow the standards outlined below. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to review for approval properly justified requests for an exception to this policy.

B) APPLICATION

This policy applies to all rodents used in research and teaching at UTSA.

C) DEFINITIONS

1) Unweaned rodents

- a) Mice, rats and Syrian hamsters under the weaning age of 21 days (or as approved as an exception by the IACUC).
- b) Guinea pigs under the weaning age of 14 days (or as approved as an exception by the IACUC).
- c) For clinical reasons, the UV or designee may extend the weaning time.

2) Fetuses (generally starting at 60% of the gestational period)

- a) Mice and rats - day 13 of gestation to parturition.
- b) Syrian hamsters - day 11 of gestation to parturition.
- c) Guinea pigs - day 39 of gestation to parturition.



- 3) Manipulations – sexing (for culling purposes), harvesting or sampling tissue from unweaned animals (e.g. organ harvesting, tail biopsy, ear punch for genotyping).

D) PROCEDURES

1) Counting

- a) Investigators must indicate in the protocol application the minimum number of litters of fetal and/or neonatal rats, mice, hamsters and/or guinea pigs needed for the three year life of the protocol to procure the tissue, cells or progeny for their study (e.g. 10 litters (9 pups ea) of 15 day old pups are necessary to collect 40 brains)
- b) The protocol will further specify the following:
 - (1) The total estimated number of pups that will be generated.
 - (2) The total estimated number of pups that will be manipulated in any way for the research protocol.
 - (3) The total estimated number of pups that will be maintained for breeding purposes.
 - (4) The total estimated number of pups that will be otherwise disposed of WITHOUT research manipulation.
 - (a) # Euthanized.
 - (b) # Transferred to another PI/protocol.
- c) Neonatal and fetal pups which are utilized prior to birth or directly harvested from the dam for tissue will be counted with the dam as “litter” (1 dam + litter = 1 animal).
- d) If animals will be euthanized at or before weaning because they are of the wrong genotype or sex for the experiment, they should be counted as animals held but not subject to experimental manipulation.

2) Logging



- a) For animals not manipulated prior to weaning, no logging is required.
- b) To help estimate the number of animals produced in the breeding colony for protocol tracking purposes, the number of animals (brought to parturition) but manipulated before weaning will be logged in the FMLARC096-00 – *Animal Use Prior to Weaning Record* posted on the animal room door.
- c) It will be the responsibility of PI/lab staff to log the litter once discovered in the cage.
- d) The LARC will collect this form at the end of the month to track animal usage per protocol.