

<b>Institutional Animal Care Program (IACP)</b>	
<b>Title: Physical Restraint of Unanesthetized Research Animals</b>	
<b>Policy number IACP 022</b>	<b>Date in Effect:</b> 05/13/11
<b>Revision 2, 10/09/20</b>	<b>Re-reviewed Date:</b> 03/14/25, no changes
<b>In Effect</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rescinded</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date Rescinded:</b>

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all personnel using animals in research and teaching to abide by this policy. It is the responsibility of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to review for approval properly justified requests for an exception to this policy.

B) APPLICATION

It is frequently necessary to physically restrain animals during examination as well as while administering substances and collecting samples some of which have the potential to cause pain or distress that cannot be controlled. In most cases, only a short period, 15 minutes or less, in a species-specific restraint device, is required. All physical restraint procedures (in awake, non-anesthetized animals) must be described in detail in the protocol. Occasionally administrations, sample collections, or treatments require a prolonged period of physical restraint which should be avoided unless essential to the research objectives. Convenience is not an adequate justification to use prolonged restraint.

This policy is intended to insure that:

- 1) The method of restraint is appropriate for the species of animal.
- 2) The period of restraint is the minimum required for experimental objectives.



- 3) Documentation that the personnel performing the restraint have been appropriately trained.
- 4) When prolonged physical restraint is necessary, the physical, physiological and psychological effects on the animal are minimized.

C) DEFINITIONS

- 1) Physical restraint - Physical restraint is 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.
- 2) During physical restraint, an animal is prevented from making normal postural adjustments.
- 3) Prolonged restraint – Continuously restraining an animal for greater than 15 minutes.
- 4) Brief restraint – Restraining an animal for 15 minutes or less.

D) PROCEDURES

- 1) Brief restraint procedures need to be described in the protocol but do not require justification.
- 2) Prolonged restraint procedures need to be described in the protocol AND must be justified.
- 3) The following criteria should guide the investigator in the prolonged restraint of animals:
  - a) Restraint devices should not be considered a normal method of housing, and must be justified in the animal-use protocol.
  - b) Restraint devices should not be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
  - c) Alternatives to physical restraint should be considered.



- d) The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.
- e) Animals to be placed in restraint devices for prolonged restraint should be given training (with positive reinforcement) to adapt to the equipment and personnel.
- f) Animals that fail to adapt should be removed from the study.
- g) Provision should be made for observation of the animal that is under restraint at appropriate intervals, as determined by the IACUC and approved in the animal-use protocol.