
Subject: Major Survival Surgery Policy #14
Single vs. Multiple Procedures

References: AWA Section 13(a)(3)(D,E)
9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.31 (d)(1)(x)

History: Provides requested guidance. Replaces letters dated April 21, 1992 and June 5, 1990.

Justification: No animal is to be used in more than one major survival operative procedure except in cases of scientific necessity or veterinary care.

Policy: No animal assigned to a proposal is to be used in more than one major survival operative procedure unless the multiple procedures are included within one proposal, justified for scientific reasons by the Principal Investigator, and preapproved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). However, an animal that has an emergency major operative procedure as part of proper veterinary care may still be used in a proposal that requires a major survival operative procedure.

A major survival operative procedure must not be performed a second time on an animal in a separate proposal. In order to comply with the intent of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), animals surviving a major operative procedure must be identified (written documentation) to prevent their use in a second major survival operative procedure.

The AWA and its regulations allow an exemption to limiting animals from being used in only one proposal with a major survival operative procedure. The Institutional Official of the research facility should make the exemption request to the appropriate Animal Care Regional Director, who forwards it to the Animal Care Assistant Deputy Administrator for review and recommendation to the Deputy Administrator. The request for exemption should include the following information:

- a. An outline of the research proposals for which the procedure is requested
- b. The species and the approximate number of animals involved in the exemption request
- c. The time frame for the proposed exempt procedure

- d. The number of major operative procedures to be performed on a given animal, the frequency of such procedures, and the period of time between each major operative procedure
- e. Measures to be taken to ensure that pain/distress are minimized
- f. A complete justification for the exemption in which cost is not normally a major criterion
- g. An assurance that all other stipulated requirements of the AWA and regulations will be met in consideration of this exemption
- h. An assurance that the facility's IACUC has approved the exemption.

The Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) may respond to the formal request by approving the request as written, granting a portion of the request, imposing additional limitations, or denying the request. An annual IACUC evaluation of the exemption is required, which consists of an IACUC assessment of the animals and the effectiveness and soundness of the methods and procedures used. This information is to be included in the report of the IACUC functions. Considerations for the renewal or continuation of the exemption will be based on the IACUC's recommendations following their review. The exemption must be included in the Annual Report (APHIS Form 7023).