

Subject: Maximum Allowable Weight Loss

Source: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Effective Date: 09/11/23
Replaces: 05/11/20
Applies to: Personnel involved in research or teaching studies involving animals
Reference: Animal Welfare Act; PHS Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals; Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals



Introduction

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) maintains oversight review for federally mandated rules and regulations with regard to animal research, ethics, misconduct and biomedical research for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Denver | Anschutz).

Policy Statement

This policy is intended to provide information on the requirements of maximum allowable weight loss and to establish procedures to be followed.

- The maximum allowable weight loss for any animal involved in a research or teaching protocol is 15% of the pre-procedure body weight in the non-obese animal.
 - Adult animals: the maximum weight loss would be a decrease from the animal's pre-procedure weight.
 - Immature animals: the maximum weight loss is a deviation of 15% from recognized growth curves or age matched control animals.
 - Caloric restriction studies resulting in more severe growth restriction are allowable but must be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- An anticipated weight loss of greater than 15% requires an "E" protocol designation for USDA covered species. A scientific justification for excessive weight loss will also be required.
- All protocols requesting weight loss > 15% require adequate scientific justification and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency (e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification may affect continuous funding of your animal-related research. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.