

Subject: Tail Clipping

Source: CU Denver | Anschutz Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Effective Date: 03/09/20
Replaces: 09/11/17
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 tail clipping and to establish procedures to be followed.

- Tail clipping of rodents is often used to obtain tissue samples for analysis.
 - If a one-time sample of only 1 to 2 mm of tail tissue is needed, and the rodent is less than 21 days of age, then no anesthesia is required.
 - If greater than 2 mm of tail tissue (or repeated samples) are needed, or if the animal is 21 days or older, then anesthesia is required.
 - Post-procedural analgesics are also required in this latter case, unless adequate scientific justification for no analgesics is provided by the investigator.
- An alternative to the tail clip procedure is ear punch or the saliva swab method (Irwin *et al.*, (1996). Identification of transgenic mice by PCR analysis of saliva. *Nature Biotechnology*, 14(9): 1146-1148). This method is recommended when only small amounts of tissue are needed (i.e. for PCR analysis).
- Any deviation from the policy concerning tail clipping will be considered and reviewed by the IACUC on a case by case basis with supporting scientific justification.