Post Procedural Care of Research Animals

Animal welfare regulations and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) require research animal subjects to be appropriately managed following surgical and other procedures, such as drug treatments. The purpose of this monitoring is to identify and respond to their needs in context with the procedure and as required in the approved IACUC protocol.

Questions about specific monitoring measures and care should be addressed to veterinary staff, DLAR technical personnel and the IACUC. Animal use protocols require investigators to, when possible, anticipate animals’ reactions to research activities, in order to focus support personnel on the proper care and scrutiny relative to the project.

Record keeping requirements will vary between projects, according to the species utilized and the nature of the work. To alert all animal care staff to rodents which require post-procedural monitoring, a special cage care is utilized which provides certain key information. One of its purposes is to communicate that certain observations are being accomplished. This 3”X5” card is a vivid shade of pink (“Pink Glow”), and different from other color schemes in use for other purposes.

The object of this colored card is to draw the attention of husbandry personnel, supervisors and veterinarians, as well as researchers and compliance personnel (IACUC inspections). The card lists the Animal Use Protocol #, Investigator, Species and the dates animals in that box were observed. An area is provided for a member of the PI’s staff to check off, by initials, that observations were accomplished.

Since the number of days requiring documented observations will vary with the protocol, a place on the card specifies the number of observation days. The reverse side of the card is for supplementary notes.

This card it to be placed in front of the normal cage card in the cage card holder. Supplies of these cards will be available in and in surgery/procedure areas, and at the DLAR operations office in the vivarium. The person placing the animal back in the room after the surgery or procedures will be responsible for assuring that a card is initiated.
Observation Periods for Rodents (Require Pink Cards)

1. One day- Sedation without surgery or significant drug treatment
2. Three days- Minor surgery, retro-orbital blood collection.
3. Five days or until fully recovered - Major surgery
4. Seven days- Animals with surgical wound clips (typically removed on day 7)
5. Chronic drug treatments- to be determined on a case-by-case basis
6. Chronic renal models- daily when animals begin to exhibit changes in renal homeostasis

POST PROCEDURAL CARE CARD

Protocol #       PI:_________ Ph#___________

Procedure: □Surgery □Drug/PK □Tumor □Other:___________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Observation/Treatment</th>
<th>Initials</th>
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Additional Comments:
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AN=Appears Normal   L=Lethargic   M = Moribund   E=Euthanized