



THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Multiple Survival Surgeries Guideline

DATE: February 14, 2018

Multiple Survival Surgeries Guideline

Both the AWA regulations and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* require that no animal assigned to a protocol be used for more than one major survival surgery unless the procedures are included within one protocol, are scientifically justified by the investigator, or are necessary for clinical reasons. Furthermore, the Guide states that regardless of classification, multiple surgeries on a single animal should be evaluated to determine their impact on the animal's well-being. For this guideline, multiple survival surgeries are defined as more than one survival surgery performed on a single animal.

Multiple major survival surgeries are permitted only under the following circumstances

- Scientifically justified by the principal investigator and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Cost savings is not an appropriate scientific justification.
- Clinically necessary for the health and well-being of the animal. This determination must be made in conjunction with the Attending Veterinarian.
- Justification for multiple survival surgeries within the protocol must include the following information:
 - Description of the procedures
 - Total number of surgical procedures the animal will undergo. This determination must be made in conjunction with the Attending Veterinarian.
 - The period of time between procedures and methods used to minimize pain and distress
- The number of survival surgeries on a single animal must be limited to the minimum number to achieve the research objectives.

References

1. *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th Edition. National Research Council Committee for the Update of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US).