



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Office of Research Compliance

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Office of Research Compliance (ORC)

Guidance for Use of Food and/or Fluid Restriction in Animals

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Web Address

Effective: 1/26/2015
Last Updated: July 2016

Responsible University Officer:
Fred H. Cate
Vice President for Research

Policy Owner:
Bloomington Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Policy Contact:
IACUC Administrator

Guidance Statement

This guidance details requirements pertaining to the use of food or fluid restriction in animals, as well as the monitoring of food/fluid restricted animals used in research, teaching or testing at the Indiana University Bloomington campus.

Procedure

Regulation of food and fluid intake is addressed in the *Guide for the Care and Use of*

BLOOMINGTON INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

Bloomington, IN 47408 (812) 855-5138

Laboratory Animals (p. 30-31, 8th edition). The regulatory expectation states:

The animals should be closely monitored to ensure that food and fluid intake meets their nutritional needs (Toth and Gardiner 2000). Body weights should be recorded at least weekly and more often for animals requiring greater restrictions (NRC 2003b). Written records should be maintained for each animal to document daily food and fluid consumption, hydration status, and any behavioral and clinical changes used as criteria for temporary or permanent removal of an animal from a protocol (Morton 2000; NRC 2003b).

For protocols using food or fluid restriction, it should be specifically stated in the protocol that (1) body weight will be measured at a minimum of once per week and (2) the weight will be written in a permanent log. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to maintain accurate records regarding body weight during food/fluid restriction, for as long as animals are maintained on food or fluid restriction. Records of body weights must be readily available to personnel involved with food/fluid restricted animals, the veterinary staff, the BIACUC, and federal regulatory officials.

Investigators will post a description of the food/fluid restriction regimen that is applied to individual animals in the housing area. Records documenting the implementation of the regimen will be retained. If the animals are housed in a LAR-managed facility, the health of restricted individuals is considered to be documented as part of the daily animal health checks performed by the staff. The LAR staff will create a written record for any animal that appears to be in ill-health, then alert the PI and veterinary staff. If animal weights fail to meet the criterion specified in the applicable protocol, then the PI will contact the veterinary staff. If animals are maintained in non-LAR managed facilities, the PI is responsible for the daily health check documentation for restricted animals, as well as developing a reporting mechanism to the veterinary staff.

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Phone	Email
Policy	BIACUC Administrator	855-5138	biacuc@indiana.edu
Veterinary Concerns	Attending Veterinarian	855-2356	lar@indiana.edu

Web Address for this Policy

<https://research.iu.edu/policies/bloomington-animal-care-and-use.html>