

Euthanasia

Item 1 – Death as an Endpoint

Regulatory agency guidelines highly discourage the use of death as an endpoint to **any** experiment. Investigators **must** euthanize moribund experimental animals unless there is significant scientific support that euthanasia would invalidate experimental data collection. For the definition of moribund, please refer to the [IACUC Policy on Euthanasia for Humane Purposes](#).

If death as an endpoint is a necessity, scientific justification must be provided in writing as part of the animal use protocol and approved by the IACUC **prior** to proceeding with this type of experiment. Investigators who receive approval to use death as an endpoint **must** agree to the following:

1. To use the minimum number of animals necessary to achieve statistical significance.
2. To use alternative endpoints (other than death) whenever possible.
3. To monitor animals at least twice daily (including weekends and holidays) and separate out debilitated animals to allow easy access to food and water.
4. To keep written records of all monitoring sessions which indicate the time observed, person observing, and any noteworthy observations such as clinical signs, number dead, etc. These records must be current and available to the Department of Laboratory Animal Resources and the IACUC at all times (within the housing area unless other arrangements made with DLAR).

Investigators should note that any approved use of death as an endpoint will normally be categorized in the highest USDA pain and distress **category E**.

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