

Surgery

Item 1 - Multiple Major Survival Surgical Procedures

Major surgery penetrates and exposes a body cavity, involves orthopedic surgery, or produces substantial impairment of physical or physiological function. Multiple major survival surgical procedures on a single animal are discouraged but may be permitted by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), if scientifically justified by the investigator. It is preferable to use more animals, if possible, to reduce the amount of pain/distress individual animals may experience. Scientific justification for multiple surgeries is required by the Animal Welfare Act. Multiple major survival surgeries can be justified if they are related components of a research project, conserve scarce animal resources, or if they are needed for clinical reasons. Cost saving alone is not an adequate reason for performing multiple major survival surgeries. Each animal use protocol proposing the use of multiple survival surgeries will be considered and reviewed by the IACUC on a case-by-case basis.

If multiple major survival surgery is approved, the IACUC will pay particular attention to animal well-being through continuing evaluation of outcomes. Major survival surgery will not be allowed on any animal that has not returned to normal physiologic function since its last surgery and is deemed unfit by a veterinarian to undergo another surgery.

A major survival operative procedure must not be performed a second time on an animal in a separate proposal. In order to comply with the intent of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), animals surviving a major operative procedure must be identified (written documentation) to prevent their use in a second major survival operative procedure. However, an animal that has an emergency major operative procedure as part of proper veterinary care may still be used in a proposal that requires a major survival operative procedure.

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