



Florida State University Animal Care and Use Committee Peri-operative Records Policy

Peri-operative records will be maintained on all vertebrate animals undergoing surgery.

Records will list the following information:

- Animal identification
- Surgical Procedure
- Date procedure was performed.
- Name of the person doing the procedure
- Technique used for sterilizing instruments
- Anesthetic agent(s) used and dose
- Analgesic agent(s) used and dose (or exemption if approved by ACUC)
- Date sutures removed or observations discontinued (list reason for latter)
- Emergency contact information

Rodents undergoing survival surgery must be monitored for post-surgical problems. Signs which might indicate the presence of pain or possible problems are listed below. The length of time individual animals should undergo observation will depend on the invasiveness of the procedure, skill of the surgeon and the individual animal. Should signs of pain, ill health or problems with an incision be noted, notify a LAR veterinarian immediately for treatment recommendations or to assist with determining endpoints (i.e. euthanasia).

- Decrease in body weight
- Decline in body condition (e.g. not grooming)
- Decreased food and water consumption
- Decrease in fecal/urine production
- Reduced level of activity
- Increased irritability or aggression when handled
- Hunched posture
- Squinted eyes
- Staggering, twitching, pressing (rats)
- Presence of porphyrin (red staining) around the eyes and nose of rats and on the front paws
- Incision site changes including redness, swelling, discharge and dehiscence (suture line failure)

DAILY RECORDS: Postoperative observations and treatments must be recorded and initialed on each post-operative date following a surgical procedure. Initials only do not constitute an observation however use of established acronyms are acceptable (see below). Daily brief entries as to the animal's condition should be made for 7-10 days following the procedure or until sutures are removed, the animal dies, the animal is euthanized or an incision has healed (whichever event occurs first). Sutures or staples must be removed unless exempted in the ACUC approved protocol. Daily entries must also note administration of analgesic drugs (on the day administered) and the day sutures are removed. The weight of the animal must be recorded on the daily record if such monitoring is indicated in the ACUC approved protocol. Also, if the ACUC approved protocol states that food and water consumption will be monitored post-operatively, these observations must be recorded in the daily log. All daily entries must be legible. The surgical records will be maintained as long as the animal is housed in FSU facilities. After the death of the animal, the surgical records for non-USDA covered species must be maintained by the investigator for a period of no less than 1 year; for USDA covered species retain records for 3 years after its termination. Note: funding agencies may require longer record retention rates; funding agency guidelines will supersede record retention periods listed above.

There will be two (2) options for maintaining perioperative records.

- 1. The records may be kept on separate 3" x 5" cards maintained behind the cage card in the cage cardholder.***
- 2. Records may be maintained in a notebook which is kept in the animal room.***

If for some reason option 1 or 2 is not possible, other arrangements must be described in the protocol and approved by the ACUC

3" x 5" record or notebook format. Cards may be obtained from Laboratory Animal Resources.:

FSU RODENT POST OPERATIVE RECORD FORM:

Front of card

Principal Investigator _____ Protocol # _____
 Animal Identification _____
 Surgical Procedure _____
 Date procedure performed _____
 Name of the person performing the procedure _____
 Technique used for sterilizing instruments _____
 Anesthetic agent(s) used/ dose _____
 Analgesic agent(s) used/ dose _____
 Emergency Contact Information _____

Postoperative observations / weights if required / medications administered / food & water intake if required / sutures removed:

Back of card

Day of Surgery _____
 Post op Day 1 _____
 Post op Day 2 _____
 Post op Day 3 _____
 Post op Day 4 _____
 Post op Day 5 _____
 Post op Day 6 _____
 Post op Day 7 _____
 Post op Day 8 _____
 Post op Day 9 _____
 Post op Day 10 _____

Note, at a minimum, daily observations should be recorded until sutures are removed, animal dies or is euthanized (whichever event occurs first).

| Acronym | Meaning |
|--------------------------|--|
| APP / (P, F, G) | Appetite (poor, fair, good) |
| Abx (list drug and dose) | antibiotics |
| BAR | bright, alert, responsive |
| E/D (-, +, ++) | Eating and drinking (none, yes, very well or lots) |
| F/U (-, +/-, +) | Feces/urine (none, scant, normal) |
| IMPR | improved: followed by a variable number of +'s to indicate degree of improvement |
| IRRI | Irritable or aggressive |
| NAF | No abnormal findings |
| NG | Not grooming |
| POR | Porphyrin staining |
| R/S or S/R | Removed sutures (or sutures removed) |
| WNL | Within Normal Limits |