



## Proposal Review Considerations

In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, PHS Policy, and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the IACUC uses the following criteria in its review of *Proposals to Use Vertebrate Animals in Research and Teaching*. Although all aspects of the proposed use of animals must be clearly delineated and justified, the reviewers pay particular attention to the issues described below.

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**Lay Project Summary.** The summary should be written for the understanding of persons not trained in biomedical science.

**Pain and Distress Classification.** If classification appears to be inaccurate, the reviewer notifies the IACUC Office, whereupon the classification may be reconsidered. If classification is changed, reviewers are re-assigned accordingly.

**Unnecessary duplication.** A written assurance that the proposed activities do not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments must be included.

**Experimental groups.** The description for each experimental group, generally represented as a row in the appropriate table, should be provided in enough detail such that the reviewer can understand the sequence of events, procedures, treatments, etc. from acquisition to ultimate disposition (e.g., euthanasia).

**Prolonged restraint.** If applicable, the use of any devices used to restrain animals for prolonged periods of time must be thoroughly described and justified.

**Pain-relieving agents.** If applicable, a list of the sedative, analgesic and/or anesthetic agents to be used in the study must be included and appropriate. The *Proposal* should also address other procedures that will be used to avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to animals used in non-surgical procedures.

**Peri-operative care.** If applicable, plans for pre- and postoperative care and a description of aseptic surgical techniques must be included.

**Multiple survival surgery.** If applicable, justification for multiple survival surgery performed on a single animal must be included.

**Hazardous agents.** If applicable, a detailed protocol for the use of hazardous agents must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate safety personnel/committee. The necessity of a Special Animal Safety Protocol (SASP) is made by the appropriate safety unit.

**Euthanasia.** A description of euthanasia procedures and the clarification of a study endpoint must be included.

**Consideration of alternatives.** A written description of the methods and reference sources used to address the issue of alternatives to painful procedures must be included.

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