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|  <p>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guiding Principles and Procedures</p> | <p>Effective: 9/19/2013</p> <p>Revised: 2/21/2019</p> |
| <p>Title: Food and/or Fluid Regulation</p> | <p>Page 1 of 5</p> |

Guiding Principle

The restriction of or access to food or fluids from an animal’s ad libitum (free feeding) consumption is referred to by the Guide and “Regulations”. This may entail *scheduled* access to food or fluid sources or *restriction* of the total daily amount of food or fluid provided to the animal. Regulation of food or fluid intake may be required for the conduct of some physiological, neuroscience, and behavioral research protocols. The objective is to use the least regulation that will maintain the well-being of the research animals, while at the same time helping the investigator achieve the scientific objective.

Scientific justification must be provided when food or fluid regulation is proposed. The development of IACUC protocols that involve food or fluid regulation requires the evaluation of three factors: the necessary level of regulation, the potential adverse consequences, and methods for assessing the health and well-being of the animals.

Animals that require food and/or fluid regulation must be closely monitored to ensure that food and fluid intake meets their nutritional needs. Body weights and/or body condition scoring (livestock species) must be recorded at least weekly. Written records must be maintained for each animal to document daily food and fluid consumption, hydration status, and any behavioral or clinical changes used as criteria for temporary or permanent removal of an animal from a protocol.

For the purpose of this Guiding Principle, food and/or fluid restriction will include any deviation from normal husbandry procedures, with the exception of fasting for surgical procedures. Pre-surgical fasting is generally for a period of less than 12 hours and these guidelines do not apply.

Definitions of Food and/or Fluid Regulation:

- Scheduled Access-An animal consumes as much as desired at regular intervals
- Restriction-The total volume of food or fluid consumed is strictly monitored and controlled.

Requirements

Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, in accordance with 9 CFR, Ch.1 Part 3-Standards-Subpart A through Subpart D.

Guide for the Care of and Use of Laboratory Animals, ILAR, NAS, Eighth Edition 2011, pg 31: Food and Fluid Regulation.

Regulation of food or fluid intake may be required for the conduct of some physiological, neuroscience, and behavioral research protocols. The regulation process may entail scheduled access to food or fluid sources, so an animal consumes as much as desired are regular intervals, or restriction in which the total volume of food or fluid consumed is strictly monitored and controlled (NRC2003b). The objective when these studies are being planned and executed should be to use the least restriction necessary to achieve the scientific objective while maintaining animal well-being.

Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, Federation of Animal Science Societies, 3rd ed., 2010, Chapter 3: Housing, Husbandry, and Biosecurity:

Animals must be provided with feed and water in a consistent manner, on a regular schedule, in accordance with the requirements established for each species by NRC.(1985, 1988, 1994, 2001, 2007) and as recommended for the geographical area. When exceptions are required by an experimental or instructional protocol, these must be justified in the protocol and may require approval by the IACUC.

Procedure

1. Protocol Requirements
 - 1.1. Provide justification for food/fluid regulation.
 - 1.2. Provide a complete description of the proposed food/fluid regulation including the feeding schedule, length of regulation, and/or the total amount of food/fluid restriction (i.e. an exact percentage of the amount of food/fluid being restricted that was calculated from a measured amount of normal daily consumption).
 - 1.3. Describe any potential adverse effects from the regulation and how the animals will be monitored to detect those adverse effects. Monitoring **must** include daily observation, food/fluid consumption, and weekly bodyweights and/or body condition scores.
 - 1.4. Indicate criteria (behavioral and/or clinical changes) to be used for temporary or permanent removal of an animal from regulation.
2. Record Keeping: A daily log sheet for food or fluid regulation is available for use (see below).

2.1. The following items must be maintained for each animal on study:

- A. General information including protocol number, PI, contact person, etc.
- B. Baseline weight and/or body condition score (before regulation begins)
- C. Daily food consumption
- D. Daily fluid consumption
- E. Feeding schedule if scheduled access
- F. Daily health observations (e.g. hydration status, behavior))
- G. Weekly weight and/or body condition score (may be more often if protocol requirements indicate).
- H. Date, time, and initials of personnel who evaluated animal-daily.

Note: exceptions or alternative recordkeeping plans approved in your IACUC Protocol may supersede the guidance above.

Daily Log Sheet for Food or Fluid Regulation

Refer to the Policy for Food and/or Fluid Regulation on the [IACUC Website](#)

Protocol #: _____ PI: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Phone/s: _____

Type of Restriction: Food Water Both Nutritional

Baseline Weight/Body Condition Score: _____ Restriction Start Date: _____
 Restriction End Date: _____

Feeding Times (if scheduled access): _____

Animal ID# _____ *If being offered ad-libitum, indicate "ad-lib" in column

| Date/Time | Nutritional change | Water* Amt given | Food* Amt given | Body Weight and/or body condition score Minimum Weekly | Health Observations | Initials |
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