TITLE: Surgical Training and Facilities

PURPOSE: To clarify the requirements for performing surgery.

REVIEW/REVISION: Permanent amendment/revisions to this policy must be presented to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for review before implementation, with the exception of updating internet URLs, if required. Continuing review of this policy by the IACUC will occur at least every three years.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: UAC and all research personnel who perform surgery.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/15/05; Revised/Re-Approved: 11/2/06, 11/1/07, 11/5/09, 4/30/11, 10/14/13

POLICY/PROCEDURES:

Federal regulations specify the need for all individuals performing surgery on animals to be adequately trained. In addition, federal regulations specify where certain surgical procedures can occur. Surgical procedures performed on animals are classified non-survival or survival. Survival surgery is further classified as major or minor.

The IACUC and the Attending Veterinarian (or designee) are responsible for assessing surgical proficiency and approving all surgical facilities or locations. The Attending Veterinarian (or designee) is responsible for identifying surgery as major or minor, which may affect the training required and/or the surgical facility or location that can be used.

Surgical training

All individuals intending to perform surgery must complete the Animal Surgical Training Program. Upon completion of all the required components of the Program, an individual is certified to perform approved surgical procedures without supervision. As described in the Animal Surgical Training Program, additional training may be required if a protocol amendment results in a substantial change to surgical procedures or if insufficient training for approved surgical procedures is identified.

Surgical facilities or locations

Acceptable surgical facilities or locations are dependent on the species used and the type of surgery performed. In all cases, surgery must only occur in the facilities or locations approved by the IACUC and the Attending Veterinarian (or designee). As guidance, the IACUC generally approves the following locations by species:

**Large animal species (rabbit, ferret, cat, dog, pig, ruminant, horse, non-human primate, etc...):**
- Major survival surgical procedures must be conducted in rooms specifically dedicated as a surgical suite (such as AHSC 1225, 1227, ARC 110, CAF 135).
- Non-survival and minor survival surgical procedures must be conducted in a dedicated surgical suite, when possible. Exemptions to perform these categories of procedures elsewhere are only allowed if justified by the PI and approved by the IACUC and the Attending Veterinarian (or designee).

**Small animal species (rodent, bat, bird, frog, etc...):**
- Non-survival and major or minor survival surgery may be performed in an investigator laboratory. However, the location must conform to all applicable federal regulations and guidelines and is subject to IACUC pre-inspection prior to approval.
DEFINITIONS:

**Major survival surgery:** This type of surgery penetrates and exposes a body cavity, produces a substantial impairment of physical or physiological function, or involves extensive tissue dissection or transection (e.g., laparotomy, thoracotomy).

**Minor survival surgery:** This type of surgery does not expose a body cavity and causes no or only temporary impairment (e.g., peripheral vessel cannulation, percutaneous biopsy, routine agricultural procedures).

**Non-survival surgery:** The animal is anesthetized, undergoes a major or minor surgical procedure and is euthanized without waking from anesthesia. Anesthesia for a non-surgical procedure, followed by immediate euthanasia while under anesthesia, is not considered non-survival surgery.

JUSTIFICATION:

The University of Arizona is registered as an animal research facility with the USDA, is PHS assured and accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC).