

## USDA/AWA (Animals Welfare Act) PAIN/DISTRESS CATEGORIES

### NOTE: Definition of Painful Procedures (AWA)

"As applied to any animal, pain means any procedure that would reasonably be expected to cause more than slight or momentary pain or distress in a human being to which that procedure was applied, that is, pain in excess of that caused by injections or other minor procedures."

Category B - Management Procedures - Animals being held, bred, or conditioned for use in Teaching, Testing, Experiments, Research, or Surgery but not yet used for such purposes.

Examples;

- Animal breeding, pregnancy, parturition, and lactation
- Physical restraint and preventative medical procedures such as vaccination
- Husbandry procedures such as non-stressful transporting animal from one housing location to another

Category C - No or minimal painful Procedures - Animals used where no or minimal pain/distress is produced and no pain relieving drugs are used.

Examples;

- Physical or chemical restraint and husbandry procedures, such as applying identification tags, ear notching, tattoos, etc.
- Transporting of animals from one housing location to another over several hours
- Insertion of per-cutaneous catheters
- Positive reinforcement behavioral modification
- Venous Blood Sampling
- Management procedures in agriculture species as listed in the Ag Guide
- Euthanasia alone using AVMA approved methods

Category D - Painful procedures with pain relieving drugs - Animals used where pain and distress to the animal is present and in which appropriate local or general anesthesia, analgesic, or tranquilizer drugs are used. See Note Below.

Examples:

- Approved Euthanasia methods following terminal procedures with anesthesia
- Surgeries with local and or general anesthesia
- Painful or stressful post-operative circumstances with analgesics
- Stressful transport of animals with tranquilizers
- Ocular and skin irritancy testing with local anesthesia

Category E - Painful procedures without pain relieving drugs - Animals used where pain and distress to the animal is present and for which the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizer drugs would adversely affect the procedure results, or interpretation of the results. (A justification of the procedures producing pain or distress and the reasons pain-relieving drugs were not used must be attached.) See Note Below.

Examples:

- Negative reinforcement behavioral experiments
- Use of adjuvants which cause death of tissue resulting in tissue sloughing
- Induction of radiation sickness
- Restraint for long periods of time (days to weeks)
- Death as endpoint study
- Induction of self-mutilation

**NOTE:** Category D & E experiments present an explicit responsibility on the investigator to search for alternatives such as replacement of a live animal model with non-living systems; refinement of methods which are less painful or distressful and reduction in number of animals used to ensure that animal pain/distress is minimized. For help, see the following websites:

AWIC Alternatives and Database Searches: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/alternatives/alternat.htm>