

**The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

**Prolonged Physical Restraint**

Physical restraint is the use of manual or mechanical means to limit some or all of an animal's normal movement for the purpose of examination, collection of samples, drug administration, therapy, or experimental manipulation. Prolonged restraint should be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives and is approved by the IACUC.

Brief restraint for the purpose of injections or veterinary examinations is not considered prolonged physical restraint.

Institutional examples of prolonged physical restraint include: chairing of nonhuman primates, chronic harness restraint of metabolic animals, and tube restraints for rodents.

Important guidelines for restraint include:

- Restraint devices are not to be considered normal methods of housing
- Restraint devices should not be used simply as a convenience
- Restraint periods should be the minimum required to accomplish the task
- Animals should be trained (adapted) to the restraint devices (Methods are to be detailed in the Animal Activity Protocol.)
- Frequent observations should be made of all restrained animals
- Veterinary care should be provided for all lesions/illnesses associated with prolonged restraint

The UMMC Animal Activity Protocol form question #16 prompts the investigator to note if Prolonged Physical Restraint is a component of the protocol. Further, the investigator must complete Appendix G and explain and justify the need for the prolonged physical restraint in the animal.

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