



INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE  
AND USE COMMITTEE

**IACUC POLICY # 9**  
**POLICY ON MULTIPLE MAJOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES**

**I. Definitions**

1. Major surgery: Major surgery penetrates and exposes a body cavity or produces substantial impairment of physical or physiological functions (such as laparotomy, thoracotomy, craniotomy, joint replacement, or limb amputation).

2. Survival surgery: Survival surgery is any surgical procedure in which the animal is allowed to recover from anesthesia.

**II. Policy**

Multiple major survival surgical procedures on a single animal are discouraged but may be permitted if scientifically justified by the user and approved by the IACUC.

Multiple major survival surgical procedures can be justified if they are related components of a research project, if they will conserve scarce animal resources, or if they are needed for clinical reasons.

If multiple major survival surgery is approved, the IACUC will pay particular attention to animal well-being through continuing evaluation of outcomes.

Cost savings alone is not adequate reason for performing multiple major survival surgical procedures.

1. A monitoring program for these animals must be described in the AUP. This should include physiological and behavioral parameters for assessment of pain or distress, including criteria (such as weight loss or hydration state) for temporary or permanent removal of the animals from the experiment. Body weight must not be allowed to drop below 80% of normal (taking into account the normal anticipated growth for that animal).
2. Precautions that should be used in cases of fluid restriction include daily recording of fluid intake and recording of body weight at least three times per week (including weekends and holidays). This daily log sheet must be kept with the animals.
3. Special attention should be given to ensuring that animals consume a suitable balanced diet because food consumption may decrease with fluid restriction.