



**IACUC POLICY # 6**  
**POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF ANIMALS**

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.

Animals may be physically restrained briefly either manually or with restraint devices. The period of restraint must be the minimum time necessary to perform the procedure. Personnel administering the restraint must be properly trained to handle the species of animal and specific method of restraint. Restraint devices should be suitable in size, design, and operation to minimize discomfort or injury to the animal.

Prolonged restraint of animals is discouraged and must be specifically justified as essential for accomplishing the research objectives in the Animal Use Proposal and approved by the IACUC.

The use of less restrictive systems that do not limit the animal's ability to make normal postural adjustments, such as the tether system for nonhuman primates, should be used when compatible with the protocol objectives.

When restraint devices are used, they should be specifically designed to accomplish research goals that are impossible or impractical to accomplish by other means or to prevent injury to animals or personnel.

The following guidelines apply to the use of restraint devices:

1. Restraint devices are not to be considered normal methods of housing.
2. Restraint devices should not be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
3. The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.
4. Animals to be placed in restraint devices should be given training to adapt to the equipment and personnel.
5. Provision must be made for observation of the animal at appropriate intervals as determined by the IACUC.
6. Veterinary care must be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. The presence of lesions, illness, or severe behavioral change may necessitate the temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint.