



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO  
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE**

SUBJECT: Multiple Survival Surgeries Guideline

DATE: April 17, 2024

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**Multiple Survival Surgeries Guideline**

Both the AWA regulations and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* state that multiple major surgical procedures on a single animal are acceptable only if they are included in and essential components of a single research project or protocol, are scientifically justified by the investigator, or are necessary for clinical reasons. Furthermore, the Guide states that regardless of classification, multiple surgeries on a single animal should be evaluated to determine their impact on the animal's well-being. For this guideline, multiple survival surgeries are defined as more than one survival surgery performed on a single animal.

Multiple major survival surgeries are permitted only under the following circumstances:

- Scientifically justified by the principal investigator and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Cost savings is not an appropriate scientific justification.
- Justification for multiple survival surgeries within the protocol must include the following information:
  - Description of the procedures
  - Total number of surgical procedures the animal will undergo. This determination must be made in conjunction with the Attending Veterinarian.
  - The period of time between procedures and methods used to minimize pain and distress
- The number of survival surgeries on a single animal must be limited to the minimum number to achieve the research objectives.
- Animals that undergo a survival surgical procedure cannot be transferred to another IACUC protocol for an additional surgery or used in another major surgery on the same IACUC protocol, without the IACUC protocol specifically describing and justifying the multiple surgeries to a single animal. This includes purchased animals that have already undergone a surgical procedure.
- Clinically necessary for the health and well-being of the animal. This determination must be made in conjunction with the Attending Veterinarian.
- Exceptions to the single protocol restriction for multiple major survival surgeries on USDA-regulated species require a formal request by the Institutional Official to the USDA/APHIS who have the authority to grant or deny the request.

## References

1. *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. National Research Council Committee for the Update of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US).