

POLICY – Major Multiple Survival Surgical Procedures

Version 2.0

I. Institutional Policy

The University of Illinois Animal Care Policy states, "Multiple major operative survival surgical procedures must be justified and can only be performed in an animal in the context of one specific research project. Major survival surgery is defined as any surgical intervention that penetrates and exposes a body cavity or produces substantial impairment of physical or physiologic functions, or involves extensive tissue dissection or transection. Laparoscopic surgeries and some procedures associated with neuroscience research (electrode placement) may be classified as major or minor depending on the impact on the animal. The ACC will determine on a case-by-case basis how the laparoscopic or neuroscience procedure is classified based on the extent the procedure penetrates or exposes a body cavity, produces substantial impairment and/or the degree of tissue dissection.

II. Procedures for Approval

Any proposed multiple surgeries must be indicated and justified in Form B, item 5, of the Protocol for Animal Use and described in Form B, item 6. All protocols involving multiple major operative procedures will be reviewed in their entirety by the Full ACC review. Factors considered in the approval of a protocol with multiple survival surgical procedures include:

- a. The type of procedure.
- b. The frequency and interval between procedures.
- c. The size and location of incisions.
- d. The potential for pain and other postoperative complications.
- e. The duration of the procedure.
- f. The species, health status and age of animal.
- g. The justification supporting the need to perform multiple survival surgical procedures.
- h. Whether the surgical procedure is to support a research project or is necessary for the health and well-being of an animal.
- i. Species preservation such as commonly occurs with nonhuman primates and difficult to obtain animal models.

Cost alone is not an adequate justification for performing more than one survival surgery on an animal.