



Policy on endpoints for transgenic animals

Twelve month period of approval for projects which propose creation of a novel transgenic animal strain.

- The Investigator will report in a timely manner to the Animal Care Committee (ACC) on the phenotype of the new transgenic strain. Following consideration of the information, the ACC may approve further use of the strain or may request a revision of the proposal.
- The use of pilot studies is encouraged to reduce number of animals with unknown phenotype expression
- In addition to the Phenotype Report, the requirement to promptly report unexpected occurrences of animal morbidity or mortality to the ACC applies to these projects.

The Investigator will provide information to the ACC in the form of a documentary record of monitoring performed in order to detect abnormalities including pain and distress. The information is to be provided in the format of the “Transgenic Animal Monitoring Sheet”

- Monitoring must be performed as frequently as necessary to detect adverse effects, pain and distress and disease. Animals must be observed at least daily.
- Monitoring is to be performed by personnel familiar with the signs of pain or distress or ill health in the particular animal species.

TRANSGENIC ANIMAL MONITORING SHEET

ACC Project No. _____ Investigator _____

Mouse ID No. _____ Strain/genetic description _____

Animal Details (sex, age, etc)

- Each mouse is examined and observed for abnormalities at each time point (daily as appropriate or twice daily during the first week after birth)
- Observations are recorded in the table
- Normal clinical signs are recorded as “N”
- Abnormalities are recorded as “A” and severity is scored in brackets eg Breathing: A (3)
- Comments concerning abnormalities are recorded in the comments section of the table
- Additional observations tailored to the monitoring requirements for each transgenic strain are to be added at “Other”

CLINICAL OBSERVATION (N or A)	DATE						
UNDISTURBED							
Coat							
Activity							
Breathing							
Movement/gait							
Nursing							
Alert/Sleeping							
ON HANDLING							
Alert							
Body condition							
Bodyweight (g)							
Body temperature (°C)							
Dehydration							
Eyes							
Faeces							
Nose							
Breathing							
Urine							
Vocalisation							
OTHER (specify)							
COMMENTS							
INITIALS:							

Signature of Principal Investigator _____

Date _____

CLINICAL SIGNS SEVERITY SCORE

SIGNS	0	1	2	3
Activity	normal	isolated, abnormal posture	huddled/inactive OR overactive	moribund OR fitting
Alertness/Sleeping	normal	dull or depressed	little response to handling	unconscious
Body condition	normal	thin	loss of body fat, failure to grow	loss of muscle mass
Body weight	normal weight and growth rate	reduced growth rate	failure to grow	failure to grow and weight loss
Breathing	normal	rapid, shallow	rapid, abdominal breathing	laboured, irregular, skin blue
Coat	normal	coat rough	unkempt; wounds, hair thinning	bleeding or infected wounds, or severe hair loss or evidence of maternal aggression
Dehydration	none	skin less elastic	skin tenting	skin tenting and eyes sunken
Nursing	normal	decreased intake over 24 hrs	decreased intake over 48 hours	not nursing over 24 hours
Eyes	normal	wetness or dullness	discharge	eyelids matted
Faeces	normal	Faeces moist	loose, soiled perineum OR abnormally dry +/-	running out on handling OR no faeces for 24 hrs OR frank



			mucus	blood on faeces
Nose	normal	wetness	discharge	coagulated
Urine	normal		abnormal color/volume	no urine 24 hrs OR incontinent, soiled perineum
Vocalisation	normal	squeaks when palpated	struggles and squeaks loudly when handled/palpated	abnormal vocalisation
Other				

If one observation equals 3 or if total score is above 4, the facility manager or veterinarian must be contacted. During the first week after birth, there may be increased infant mortality and should be observed at least twice daily. This observation should include maternal care, warmth of pups, etc.