Laurentian University Animal Facility

Use of Transgenic Animal – Guidelines

The Canadian Council on Animal Care and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) and other agencies reflect concern about management of transgenic animals used for research. These are some common sense issues that we must address:

1) be fully aware of any overt physical/behavioural abnormalities that are anticipated.

2) ensure a high level of scrutiny for development of any painful or distressing conditions.

3) reasonable and practical attempts must be made to alleviate or minimize any apparent painful/distressful condition without affecting the usefulness of the animals for research.

4) where pain/distress is unavoidable, we must have a clearly defined and approved end-point in order to ensure there is no unnecessary pain/distress to the affected animal.

1.0 Animal Utilization Proposal Addendum

1.1 The Animal Care Committee (ACC) has responsibility both legally and morally to ensure proper management and monitoring of animal use including transgenic animals. To this end, the following addendum is requested for transgenic animals in addition to the standard Animal Utilization Proposal (AUP).

TRANSGENIC ANIMAL

ANIMAL UTILIZATION PROPOSAL ADDENDUM

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

Please complete the attached using a separate form for each different strain or category of similar transgenic animals proposed to be used. AUP approval will require this information.

1. Any expected overt physical/behavioural abnormalities must be identified on the AUP Addendum form. Indicate if any special procedures or care are planned to reduce distress from any abnormality. The ACC will evaluate any potentially painful or distressful conditions to determine what if any treatment or management can be used to minimize the distress.

2. Any unexpected abnormalities that develop in animals must be documented by the responsible investigator on an AUP Addendum form and sent as an update to the officially approved AUP. This will assist veterinary and animal care staff in managing the animals.

3. Any intensive breeding used cannot violate the legal standards for housing of mice. No more than five (5) adults (or the equivalent) can be kept per standard mouse cage, eg:

    a) no more than two (2) female mice plus one preweaning litter per female can be housed per standard cage.

    b) in the case of post-partum breeding, the first litter cannot be overlapped with a second litter before weaning of the first litter.

APPENDIX

Transgenic Information Sheet

Investigator _____ AUP _____

Species _____

Background Strain _____

To be housed in Room _____

What is the health profile of the source colony? Provide the most recent serology report.

What known traits will affect breeding and lifespan?

What abnormalities are known to exist (or do you expect) in these animals?

If you expect these abnormalities will cause pain or distress, how will you minimize or alleviate it?

Describe your monitoring and recording procedures for detecting physical or behavioural abnormalities, which are indicative of pain and distress.

What objective criteria will be used to determine if an animal will be removed from the study prematurely?

If biological containment is required, state reasons and the level required. Describe your containment and security procedures. How will you deal with breach of containment? Will there be any risks to human health, wild population or the environment generally if containment fails?

If you are generating a novel transgenic strain, provide a timetable for this process and indicate when you expect to report back to the ACC on the phenotype obtained. This will require Category of Invasiveness "D" approval will require peer review and will be provisional (C12 months).

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