

**Subject: Animal Restraint**

Source: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)  
Effective Date: 03/09/20  
Replaces: 02/12/18  
Applies to: Personnel involved in research or teaching studies involving animals  
Reference: Animal Welfare Act; PHS Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals; Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals



The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) maintains oversight review for federally mandated rules and regulations with regard to animal research, ethics, misconduct and biomedical research for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Denver | Anschutz).

**Policy Statement**

This policy is intended to provide information on the definition of restraint, the types of restraint, and to establish procedures to be followed during restraint.

- **Restraint** is defined as the use of manual or mechanical means to limit some or all of an animal's normal movement resulting in any significant limitation on normal spontaneous movement or postural adjustments.
- **Routine restraint** of laboratory animals is defined as confinement manually, or in a standard species- specific restraint device, for less than 15 minutes:
  - As long as this level of restraint does not cause obvious distress or discomfort to the animal, routine restraint does not require detailed description on the Protocol Application Form.
  - Any restraint of conscious animals for longer than 15 minutes or use of non standard species specific restraining devices is considered non-routine restraint.
- **Non-routine restraint** is defined as animal restraint for longer than 15 minutes, or which is more confining than standard restraining devices commonly used for that species, or which causes changes in the animal's behavior, or physiologic parameters, suggesting that the animal is experiencing distress or discomfort:
  - Restraint that involves adverse physiological responses or is likely to induce significant physical or psychological distress to the animal will require scientific justification and an alternatives search, regardless of the restraint duration or technique.
  - Non-routine restraint must be fully described, including a clear description of the restraint device, and scientifically justified by answering all the questions in the Protocol Application Form.
  - Each animal use protocol proposing the use of non-routine restraint will be considered and reviewed by the IACUC on a case by case basis.
  - When non-routine restraint devices are used, they should be specifically designed to accomplish research goals that are impossible or impracticable to accomplish by other means.

The following are important guidelines for prolonged or non-routine restraint:

- Restraint devices should not be considered normal methods of housing.
- Restraint duration should be the minimum needed to accomplish research objectives.
- Animals should be adapted to the restraint devices (species and procedure specific information defined by Investigator in IACUC protocol).
- Animals should be observed frequently while in restraint devices (species and procedure specific information defined by Investigator in IACUC protocol).
- Veterinary monitoring and care should be provided.

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency (e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification may affect continuous funding of your animal-related research. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.