University of Kansas-Lawrence
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Guidelines for Survival Rodent Surgery

**Purpose:** These guidelines describe performance standards for survival rodent surgery at the University of Kansas.

**Applicability:** These guidelines apply to all personnel performing survival rodent surgery pursuant to an approved University of Kansas Animal Use Statement.

**Definition:** Aseptic technique: procedures that limit microbial contamination so that significant infection does not occur.

**Guidelines:**

**A.** Personnel are required to use aseptic technique for all survival surgical procedures. Aseptic technique includes:
   a. Preparation of the animal;
   b. Preparation of the surgeon;
   c. Sterilization of instruments, supplies, and materials;
   d. Use of surgical techniques to reduce likelihood of infection.

**B.** Personnel performing survival surgery are required to:
   a. Wear the following
      i. Lab coat or disposable gown;
      ii. Surgical mask;
      iii. Sterile gloves.
   b. Wash and dry hands prior to donning sterile gloves.

**C.** Aseptic surgery must be conducted in dedicated facilities or spaces.
   a. Animal preparation, including fur removal and antiseptic scrubbing of the surgical site, must occur in a location physically separate from the surgery area.
   b. Surgery must be conducted in a disinfected, uncluttered area that promotes asepsis.

**D.** Personnel performing serial surgeries within a single work session should consult with ACU veterinarians to assure challenges of consecutive surgeries are adequately addressed.
   a. Glass bead sterilization is permitted for instrument re-sterilization between serial surgeries.
   b. Personnel must change gloves between each serial surgery performed in a single work session.

**E.** Principal investigators and/or designated staff are responsible for intraoperative monitoring, post-surgical care, and recordkeeping.
   a. Individual health records must be maintained for all post-surgical rodents. The ACU makes available a standardized Laboratory Animal Surgery/Procedure Anesthesia Record for this purpose.
b. Individual health records should be maintained in the immediate housing area for postsurgical animals currently on census. Health records of deceased animals may be maintained in investigator laboratories.

Author: William A. Hill, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Approval Date: 5/20/14
Revision Date: 3/21/17