

**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 post-surgical animals currently on census. Health records of deceased animals may be maintained in investigator laboratories.

Author: William A. Hill, DVM, MPH, DACLAM

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