

University of Louisiana at Monroe

College of Pharmacy Animal Vivarium

Use of Anesthetic, Analgesic and Euthanasia Agents in Animals

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Animal Welfare Act and Regulations mandate that all animals in research facilities receive adequate veterinary care and treatment to ensure that pain and distress are minimized. Such care includes appropriate use of anesthetic and analgesic with accepted standards of veterinary care. Policy statements have been developed to provide guidelines in the following areas:

- Use of Expired Drugs and Medical Materials
- Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds

IACUC POLICY STATEMENTS

Use of Expired Drugs and Medical Materials:

The use of any drug administered to relieve pain or distress (anesthetics and analgesics), including euthanasia agents, beyond its published expiration date is not consistent with acceptable or adequate veterinary practice and is not allowed under any circumstances.

Use of Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds:

In compliance with Federal Animal Welfare Regulations and guidance and standard veterinary medical practice the IACUC expects that investigators will use pharmaceutical grade medications whenever they are available, even in acute/terminal procedures¹.

Non-pharmaceutical grade compounds should only be used after specific review and approval by the IACUC for reasons such as scientific necessity or non-availability of an acceptable veterinary or human pharmaceutical-grade product. Cost savings is not a justification for using non-pharmaceutical grade compounds in research animals².

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDUES

A log sheet will be provided in each surgery room to be used when analgesics, anesthesia or euthanasia agents are used. These materials will be logged with name of substance, amount used, expiration date and person who administered the drug. In addition, Dr. Keith Jackson and Mr. Coty Lee will routinely check expiration dates on any drugs that are used within the scope of these policy statements.

1. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Animal Welfare Policy
2. [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (P.31)