

University of Notre Dame IACUC Multiple Survival Surgery Policy

Purpose

Surgery is a significantly distressful event for animals and may compromise their health. Therefore, the University of Notre Dame Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee discourages more than one survival surgical procedure on any individual animal. In this regard, survival surgery is defined as a procedure in which living tissue is incised and the animal allowed to recover from anesthesia.

Procedure

1. All surgeons must be identified on an IACUC protocol.
2. All surgeons must be observed for surgical proficiency by FLSC Veterinary staff prior to performing surgeries unattended.
3. Multiple survival surgical procedures are allowable only when they are related components of a single project and when justified for scientific reasons.
4. All instances of experimental multiple survival surgical procedures must be approved by the IACUC.
5. In contrast, if an animal requires surgery as part of responsible veterinary care, such surgery may occur without IACUC approval.