

## HKSTP IACUC

### 05 – Animal Identification Guidelines

#### *Version History*

Version	Effective Date
1	28/02/2023

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#### 1. Purpose

The guidelines are intended to provide guidance to reviewers, veterinarians, PIs and researchers on appropriate methods for animal identification. It aims to ensure that all laboratory animals are traceable for control of any potential infectious diseases.

#### 2. General Principles

- 2.1 All methods of animal identification must be approved by HKSTP IACUC.
- 2.2 All personnel performing animal identification methods should be adequately trained in the identification technique, proper rodent handling and restraint.
- 2.3 A DSC Veterinarian should be consulted if training or assistance is required.
- 2.4 Under most circumstances, general anaesthesia is not required for animal identification procedures. However, short acting analgesia can be used (e.g. local anaesthetic, non-steroidal inflammatory drug, etc) for more invasive methods. Refer to *07- General Anesthesia, Analgesics and Sedatives of Laboratory Animals Guidelines* of the handbook.

#### 3. Methods for Animal Identification

##### 3.1 Temporary identification methods

- i. Using non-toxic marker, which produces marks that will disappear in a few days, on ear/tail.
- ii. Using food colouring on a patch of fur, which produces marks that will disappear in weeks. This method may be unsuitable for animals with darker coat.
- iii. Shaving a patch of fur on the side or back of animals. This method, depending on hair regrowth ability, may last for weeks.

### 3.2 Permanent identification methods

- i. Ear punching/notching
- ii. Ear tagging
- iii. Tattooing
- iv. Subcutaneous implantation of a microchip

### **References**

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