

HKSTP IACUC

09 – Monitoring and Health Records Guidelines

Version History

Version	Effective Date
1	28/02/2023

1. Purpose

The purpose of the guideline is to outline the minimally acceptable standards for health assessments of laboratory animals. The purpose of animal health monitoring and records keeping is to allow personnel to quickly identify any abnormalities exhibited by the animal and quickly provide treatment to allow the animal to return to its normal health status.

2. General Principles

- 2.1 A monitoring checklist should be used to record all animal related activities.
- 2.2 Health records shall at least reflect on the overall health and specific measurements related to the objective of the study. Note that parameters to be recorded will differ between studies.
- 2.3 The frequency for monitoring shall depend on the animal's health conditions and the type of procedure(s) performed on the animal.
- 2.4 For most surgeries, animals should be monitored and assessed for pain and given analgesia for up to 3 days post-surgery. Analgesia may be required beyond the 3rd day, as long as the animal demonstrates sign of pain. Exceptions must be scientifically justified and approved by HKSTP IACUC.
- 2.5 Post-surgery or post-invasive procedures, monitoring of animal's health condition shall be performed. Arrangements for out-of-hours monitoring shall be made if animal fails to properly recover from the surgery or invasive procedures.
- 2.6 It is recommended to record the animal's weight on continuous basis as change in weight is a helpful reference/ indicator to the animal's health status.

3. Recommended Parameters for Monitoring

- i. Appearance of animal
- ii. Posture and gait of animal
- iii. Body Weight

- iv. Hydration (amount of liquid animal has consumed)
- v. Diet consumed
- vi. Temperature
- vii. Reparation
- viii. Elimination
- ix. Neurological Signs
- x. Skin condition surrounding incision/ wound / sampling site
- xi. Pain assessment
- xii. Veterinarian care provided
- xiii. Sickness/ abnormality observed
- xiv. Others

References

UBC Animal Care Committee: Guidelines on Monitoring and Medical Records of Animals used for Research, Teaching and Testing. Revised 2018.

<https://animalcare.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/UBC%20ACC%20Policy%20017%20Guidelines%20on%20Monitoring%20and%20Medical%20Records%20of%20Animals%20used%20for%20Research%20Teaching%20April%202018.pdf>