

Policy

To ensure adequate care for all animals, the University Animal Care Committee (UACC) requires that all recovery surgeries be done during regular working hours, from Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., unless arrangements have been made with the facility manager(s) where the animals are housed and where the surgical procedures will be performed, to ensure that an acceptable level of post-operative care will be provided.

Procedures

Recovery surgeries will normally be permitted to occur during regular working hours on Monday - Thursday of each week. This ensures that veterinary staff is available for consultation and advice in the immediate post-surgical period. Researchers will have to request to perform surgeries of an invasive nature on any days other than Monday -Thursday since veterinary and animal care staff is limited on weekends and since the first 24 hours post-surgery are when veterinary consultation and post-operative treatments (fluids, pain relief) are most commonly needed.

Adequate demonstration of monitoring and post-operative care requires an outline of the monitoring to be done, the records to be kept (and made available) and provision of accurate names and contact information of persons to be contacted if problems arise. This may adequately support approval of surgeries on days other than the standard of Monday -Thursday. If sufficient monitoring does not occur, this approval can be revoked at any time by the UACC or the University Veterinarian.

Monitoring recovery: Animals must be observed, and the observations should be recorded at least every 15 minutes. It is recommended to use a surgical log to document these observations. As emphasized in the [Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals Vol. 1 2nd edition, Canadian Council on Animal Care](#), **“Under no circumstances should an animal be allowed to recover unattended.”** If the animal(s) are not completely recovered by the end of the normal working day, an arrangement must be made for regular checks by qualified people during the evening and night. For this reason, it is a good idea to schedule surgeries early in the day, so that there is sufficient time to monitor the animal postoperatively.

Surgeries on Rodents: For surgeries on rodents, please also refer to the [Policy and Procedures on Recovery Surgery of Rodents](#).

Approved by the UACC, 21 October 2009