

UBC ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE
POLICY 25
Anesthesia of Animals

Date Approved: May 30, 2022

1. PURPOSE

This policy details the minimum standards required when anesthetizing laboratory animal species.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all animals that fall under the purview of The University of British Columbia's Animal Care Committee (UBC ACC).

3. DEFINITIONS

General Anesthesia: Loss of consciousness and sensation; this includes hypnosis, hyporeflexia, analgesia, and muscle relaxation; can be produced using a single drug (i.e. Isoflurane) or a combination of drugs (i.e. Ketamine and Xylazine).

Monitoring: Written record of the physiological parameters and clinical signs of the animal.

Observation: Watching the physiological parameters and clinical signs of the animal.

4. POLICY STATEMENTS

1. An appropriate anesthetic regimen must be approved on the investigator's Animal Use Protocol (AUP) by the UBC ACC prior to the commencement of any study.
2. Animals must be induced and recovered in such a way that they can be observed effectively and not cause injury to themselves or other animals.
3. Animals must be monitored or observed for appropriate physiological parameters and anesthetic depth and attended to throughout the duration of procedure and anesthetic recovery.
4. Appropriate supportive care must be provided.
5. Animals must not be left unattended during the entire anesthetic period and until fully recovered.
6. Anesthetic details must be recorded for each animal regardless of procedure type.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. It is the responsibility of any person involved in the anesthesia of animals to follow this policy.
2. Prior to undertaking ANY procedure involving anesthesia, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to ensure that staff carrying out anesthetic procedures are adequately trained and listed on the protocol as performing anesthesia.

6. REFERENCES

1. Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals, Canadian Council on Animal Care, Vol. 1, 2nd Ed., 2017.
https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Experimental_Animals_Vol1.pdf