

IACUC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Expired Medical Materials

134.1 Purpose

This document establishes the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requirements regarding the use of expired surgical materials in animals used in research, education, and testing.

134.2 Responsibilities

The IACUC is responsible for the oversight of the University of Kentucky's animal program, facilities, and procedures. Part of this responsibility includes the review and approval of all vertebrate animal activities involving research, education, and testing, including survival surgery.

134.3 Background

The USDA Animal Care Policy Manual Policy #3 established that "the use of expired medical materials (e.g., drugs, fluids, sutures, anesthetics, sedatives, or analgesics) during any survival surgical procedure on a regulated species is not considered acceptable veterinary practice and therefore not consistent with adequate veterinary care as required by the regulations promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act.

Further, in referring to research, teaching and testing acute terminal procedures, the policy states "Expired medical materials except analgesics, sedatives anesthetics, and euthanasia solutions may be used in acute terminal procedures where an animal is anesthetized during the study and euthanized without recovery if such use does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study."

This policy requires that "facilities permitting the use of expired medical materials in acute terminal procedures should have a policy on the use, storage, and disposal of such materials which is in accordance with all relevant institutional, local, state, and federal requirements where applicable; and/or require investigators to describe the intended use in the animal study proposal."

134.4 Medical Materials

All medical materials (e.g. drugs, fluids, sutures, anesthetics, sedatives, or analgesics) used during any survival surgical procedure shall be within its use date (i. e. not expired) as required above.

Expired medical materials (except analgesics, sedatives anesthetics, and euthanasia solutions) may be used in acute terminal procedures where the animal is not allowed to regain consciousness if such use does not adversely affect the animal's well-being or compromise the validity of the scientific study.

Expired medical materials shall be clearly identified as “EXPIRED-USE FOR NON-SURVIVAL PROCEDURES ONLY” (or similar language) and stored separately from those materials used in survival surgery to prevent accidental use in survival procedures.

Approved by the
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
April 17, 2019