



Policy on Counting Animals Bred Under Research Protocols

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this policy is to identify the process used to account for animals produced through in-house breeding. The practice minimizes the distress experienced by pre-weaned animals and helps to ensure the minimal number of animals needed for research are produced and accounted for during breeding. The practice accounts for not only those animals needed for research, but also those which do not meet the identified criteria (e.g. genetic) established for the specific study proposal.

DEFINITIONS

- **Manipulation:** Any activity/procedure including for example, euthanasia, genotyping, and/or methods used for identification conducted on an animal.

POLICY

The U-M has established a practice that ensures animals experience minimal pain and distress up to the day of weaning. Consequently, animals produced through in-house breeding are counted according to the following criteria:

- Rodents produced through in-house breeding are counted at weaning. Animals who are euthanized or culled prior to weaning are reported on the *Non-Traditional Animal Acquisition Form*. This method ensures that all pups are counted under a given protocol, regardless of the scope of experimental manipulation they undergo.
- Larval fish are counted at 7 days post-fertilization.
- All other species are counted upon birth, shortly following hatching, or at first manipulation as is appropriate to the species.

In some cases, depending on the procedure, animals may be counted at timepoints earlier than the above timepoints at the discretion of the IACUC and/or U-M faculty veterinarians. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions, additional detail, or to request changes to this policy, please contact the Animal Care & Use Office (acuoffice@umich.edu).