



Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Avoiding Unnecessary Pain or Distress in Animals Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure, as much as possible, the comfort and safekeeping of animals used in research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Einstein).

II. Scope

This policy applies to all research experiments and programs at Einstein.

III. Policy

The policy of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is that pain or distress should always be minimized to the extent that its reduction continues to permit the investigator to meet his/her experimental goals. The IACUC endorses the principal of the “3 Rs:” Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement, and each protocol is scrutinized to see if the number of animals to be used and the distress or pain they may feel can be further minimized. At minimum, if a procedure appears likely to cause discomfort, a contingency plan for analgesics (including drug, route, frequency, and dose) must be included in the animal use protocol. If animals are found to be in pain or distress, the veterinarians will follow this treatment plan. If treatment is not an option, animals will be euthanized.

IV. Definitions

None.

V. Effective Date

Effective as of: 19 February 2018.


VI. Policy Management and Responsibilities

Einstein’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is the Responsible Office under this Policy. The Institutional Official for the IACUC is the Responsible Executive for this policy. The IACUC Chairperson is the Responsible Officer for the management of this policy.

VII. Approved (or Revised)



Institutional Official



Date

Revision dates: 12/15/98, 4/20/2005, 6/15/2011, 7/16/2013, 2/22/2017, 2/19/18, 12/22/22