

Use of Sedatives, Analgesics, and Anesthetics	Policy No.
	002
	Effective Date: 1/11/16 Updated: 09/08/2025

1. Reference(s):

Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter A – Animal Welfare, Part 2, Subpart C, §2.31(d)(iv)

U.S. Government Principles for the Care and Use of Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training, 1983

National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition*. Washington, D.C., Academic Press, 2011.

2. Policy:

- 2.1. All Oklahoma State University (OSU) animal care and use protocols that involve animal procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress will be performed with adequate/appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia to alleviate the pain/distress unless written scientific justification for withholding such agents is included in the approved animal care and use protocol.
- 2.2. Pre-emptive or post-operative analgesia shall be provided for all animals subjected to survival surgery unless justified to the IACUC.
- 2.3. Procedures that cause more than momentary or slight pain/distress in humans shall be assumed to cause similar effects in animals in the absence of scientific evidence to the contrary.
- 2.4. The OSU Attending Veterinarian (AV), Director of Animal Resources, has authority to ensure that animals are afforded adequate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia to alleviate pain/distress.
- 2.5. OSU principal investigators/instructors (PI) that are not graduate veterinarians must consult with the OSU AV or another IACUC member veterinarian during the protocol planning stage or protocol review stage on appropriate analgesia/anesthesia regimens for all protocols that involve procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain/distress.
- 2.6. Animal use protocols that involve procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain/distress shall include a detailed description of how pain or distress will be assessed and what will be used to alleviate pain and distress.
- 2.7. Animals that will otherwise experience severe or chronic pain/distress that cannot be relieved will be humanely euthanized at the end of the procedure or during the procedure if appropriate.
- 2.8. Vaporizers and anesthetic machines used on animals covered by IACUC approved protocols must be serviced annually or at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer (documentation should be available). All machines should have a visible sticker with a current service date. Machines that have lapsed should be removed from service and clearly labeled as “Not in Service” or removed from the animal facility until current with this policy. New machines do not typically need servicing during their first year, but proof of purchase with a date must be available to auditors.