



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Policy on Rodent Tail Snipping for Genotyping

Date Reviewed: 12/12/18

PURPOSE:

The intent of this policy is to describe procedures required for tail tissue collection in rodents for genetic analysis. This policy is intended for use by research staff approved to perform this procedure on an Animal Protocol. This policy is approved by the UCSC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

POLICY:

The IACUC has provided a set of guidance documents (Policies, Guidelines, and SOPs) for use when planning animal procedures at UCSC. Any exception to a Policy must be described and justified in the Animal Protocol and approved by the full IACUC at a convened monthly meeting.

PROCEDURES:

- Mice and Rats \leq 24 days old: no anesthesia or analgesia required
 - Note: Better quality DNA and higher DNA yield has been reported from tail snips at 18 days of age or younger, due to a lower percentage of ossified sample. For best results, we recommend collecting samples prior to day 18
- Mice and rats >24 days old:
 - Procedures for tailing animals **at this age** must be described and justified in the Animal Protocol
 - **Use of a systemic analgesic given prior to tail snipping at this age is required unless scientifically justified**
 - **Tailing at this age is potentially painful and should be avoided if possible**

Tail snipping procedure:

- Gently, but securely, restrain animal (manual or mechanical)
- Snip tail with sanitized sharp scissors or disposable blade
- DO NOT remove more than 5mm of tail
- Place tail tip into a tissue collection tube
- Check for bleeding, if bleeding occurs:
 - Apply pressure to the cut portion of the tail with gauze until bleeding has stopped
 - If continuous pressure does not stop the bleeding, utilize a chemical cautery agent (e.g. silver nitrate or Kwik Stop®)
- Return animal to its cage
- Clean off biologic material (e.g. blood or fur) from scissors and sanitize after each snipping