Subject: Rodent Tail Biopsy

IACUC Policy

The IACUC regards tail biopsy as potentially painful procedure that may be done only in a manner consistent with this policy.

Only the minimum amount of tissue necessary for the objective should be taken from the youngest animal possible.

Tail biopsy can be performed on conscious neonate rodents as a means for genotype analysis/determination.

Tail Biopsy Procedure:

1. Rodent pups should be held in gloved hands.
2. Amount of tissue collected should be kept to a minimum.
   a. A general guideline is to remove 5 mm or less (a maximum of 10 mm removal allowable if scientifically justified.)
3. Sterilized very sharp scissors work well for this purpose.
   a. The instrument should be re-sterilized after every 5 animals.
4. Bleeding should be immediately controlled by gentle fingertip pressure.
5. Pups should be quickly returned to their dams. Cages containing tail biopsied neonates should be checked 5 minutes after tail tip removal to confirm complete hemostasis.

Tails may be biopsied without anesthesia from mice 21 days of age or younger.
Tails may be biopsied without anesthesia from rats 14 days of age or younger.

Researchers should familiarize themselves with genotype assays and select techniques providing the needed information with the least amount of tissue/sample collected in the least invasive manner.

Exceptions to this policy, such as performing tail biopsies under anesthesia on older animals, will be reviewed by the IACUC for approval consideration.