



SOP #: 105.02

Title: **SOP -** Food and Water Restriction of Laboratory Animals

Approvals:

Attending Veterinarian




Date: 08/18/16

IACUC Chairman

Date: 08-18-16

1. Purpose

1.1 The intent of this document is to detail the requirements related to the withholding of food and/or water of animals. As a general principle of animal husbandry, research animals should always be provided with adequate food and water. Restrictions of food and water for research purposes need to be scientifically justified, detailed in the protocol or other appropriate study plans, and submitted for approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

2. Responsibility

2.1 The Attending Veterinarian (AV) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) are responsible for ensuring that proposed animal activities avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animal.

3. Definitions

3.1 Food restriction is defined as food deprivation longer than 24 hours for simple stomach animals.

3.2 Water restriction is defined as water deprivation for longer than 12 hours.

4. Guidelines

4.1 Criteria for animal food / water restriction

- 4.1.1 The overall food restriction for any animal should not exceed the period that was approved by IACUC.
- 4.1.2 If only food was restricted, animals will be allowed access to water at all times.
- 4.1.3 Monitoring - Weight will be monitored before and after food / water restriction. Should weight losses of greater than 10% of their pre-restriction body weight occur, the veterinarian may recommend procedures to reduce this effect and/or to minimize its impact on animal's health and welfare.
- 4.1.4 Blood glucose levels will be monitored as part of the study design and to assure clinical hypoglycemia does not occur.
- 4.1.5 Should adverse health effects results, appropriate veterinary treatment will be administered.

5. References

5.1 Animal Welfare Act & Regulations (9 CFR Chapter 1; §3.9)

5.2 The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th Edition (NRC 2011)

6. Revision

6.1 Revision 02: 2016 IACUC Review