



Dartmouth College

Animal Care and Use Program

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

IACUC Policies and Procedures

Title: Use of Footpad Injections in Animal Research

Purpose: Immunological Protocols have the capacity to cause inflammation, tissue necrosis, discomfort, pain, and potentially death. Footpad injections related to these models may produce swelling, ulceration, and self-mutilation. This policy has been established to define the requirements and expectations for the use of this method of immunization in animals.

This adoption of this policy will affect all Animal Subject Review Forms (ASRF) approved after December 2002.

Policy: Footpad injections are not permitted in research animals unless there is scientific evidence indicating that this procedure is essential. Investigators will need to provide documentation that footpad injection is necessary.

Footpad injection is not permitted in rabbits. Front feet of rodents may not be used.

Procedures: Quantity of inoculum should be minimized. The following includes maximal volumes for rats and mice and general recommendations to reduce pain and discomfort associated with these procedures.

- 0.05 ml maximum for mice
- 0.10 ml maximum for rats

Doses for other rodent species will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

- Only one hind foot may be used
- Dorsal side of foot should be used if possible
- Animal should be housed on soft bedding.
- Access to Food and/or Water should be modified if necessary