



Dartmouth College

Animal Care and Use Program

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

IACUC Policies and Procedures

Title: The Use of Hypothermia as an Anesthetic

Purpose: There has been considerable debate on the use of hypothermia as an anesthetic in a variety of species. It is unclear whether hypothermia, as an anesthesia, provides adequate anesthesia and analgesia properties to prevent pain in animals when used in painful procedures. While it is theoretically possible that the hypothermia decreases the peripheral and CNS to a point where pain perception has stopped, there seems to be a lack of data to support this claim as an absolute premise.

This policy supercedes any previous policy regarding the use of hypothermia as an anesthetic in animals at Dartmouth College. This adoption of this policy will affect all Animal Subject Review Forms (ASRF) approved after December 2002.

Policy: The use of hypothermia in amphibians and reptiles is not an acceptable method of anesthesia for a procedure that may cause more than momentary pain or distress. It may be acceptable for procedures requiring restraint only.

Hypothermia may be used as an anesthesia in rodent fetuses 15 days to birth as well as in rodent neonates less than six days old.

Deviations from this policy require scientific justification and IACUC approval.