

Definitions:

- **Death as an Endpoint:** study that requires an animal to die without benefit of intervention or humane euthanasia.
- **Humane Endpoint:** point in study when an animal is relieved of pain or distress
- **Experimental Endpoint:** end of study when scientific aims and objectives are reached
- **Morbidity:** severely debilitated clinical condition that precedes death
- **Moribundity:** a state of unhealthiness

Guidelines:

The IACUC upholds statements put forth by the PHS Policy, AWA Regulations and The Guide, regarding the care and use of animals, especially those that may experience pain and distress.

Animals must not be allowed to suffer beyond the point where justifiable scientific objectives have been achieved.

The IACUC requires very thoughtful scientific rationale and planning for the use of death as an endpoint in studies that cause morbidity, moribundity and mortality.

Such proposals, brought to the committee for review, should contain or address the following:

Scientific Justification:

- What specific set of circumstances requires death, what alternatives were considered, and how alternatives will be used whenever possible.
- Why efforts to relieve pain and/or distress cannot be used.
- Why the number of animals proposed is the minimum necessary to achieve scientific objectives.
- What information will be gained by allowing death as an endpoint.

Plan:

- Personnel are trained to recognize signs of morbidity and moribundity of animals on study.
- Written monitoring records are kept current and available to veterinary staff.
- Monitoring of animals increases with level of morbidity and does not stop during weekends or holidays.
- The veterinarian is promptly notified when animals show signs of morbidity and moribundity.
- Consideration is given to housing and environment when their condition deteriorates to the point of immobility or injury from other animals.
- Deceased animals are promptly separated from sentient animals.