

NU – IACUC

POLICY

Northeastern University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Multiple Major Survival Surgeries

Major Surgery is defined as *any surgical intervention that penetrates and exposes a body cavity or any procedure, which produces substantial or permanent impairment of physical or physiologic function.*

Research involving surgery on laboratory animals is discussed in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, the Public Health Service Policy and the USDA regulations (Animal Welfare Act). They have set standards and boundaries in which the Northeastern University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (NU-IACUC) must operate. All research and teaching protocols involving live vertebrate animals are reviewed by the NU-IACUC. Surgical procedures performed on research animals must be described in the relevant animal protocol. While multiple major survival surgical procedures on a single animal are discouraged, exceptions may be made if the investigator scientifically justifies the procedures and receives approval of the NU-IACUC. It is preferable to use more animals, if possible, to reduce the amount of pain and distress individual animals may experience. The Animal Welfare Act requires scientific justification for multiple surgeries.

Approval may be granted in one of the following conditions is met:

- Scientific justification for multiple major survival procedures that are related components of the research project.
- The multiple procedures conserve scarce resources.
- The multiple procedures are required to protect the health or well being of the animal as determined by the attending veterinarian.

The post-operative recovery of animals undergoing survival surgical procedures is closely monitored for pain and distress by the veterinarian and NU-IACUC to ensure animal well-being.

Cost savings alone is not an adequate reason for performing multiple major survival surgeries.

Approved: