

Policy on Food and Fluid Restriction for Experimental Purposes

This document establishes the policy of the IACUC regarding food and fluid restriction when used for work involving research animals at the University of Kentucky.*

Policy

Restriction of food or fluid for experimental purposes should ensure the period and degree of restriction are the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.

For the purpose of this policy, restriction is defined as being below that required for the maintenance of standard health in that species.

Animal use protocols employing food or water restrictions must provide the following:

- Type (e.g., no access to food and/or water or limited access)
- Duration
- Frequency
- Scientific rationale
- Physiological or behavioral indices to be evaluated
- Monitoring frequency
- Criteria for temporary or permanent removal from the study

Information must be provided at the animal enclosure level indicating when the restriction begins and ends.

*This policy does not apply to the following and therefore does not require justification in the IACUC protocol:

- 1) Pre-surgical, pre-anesthetic fasting with access to water is the veterinary standard for larger species (small research animals such as rodents are not typically fasted before surgery).
- 2) Caloric restriction as a husbandry technique such as standard production methods (e.g., controlled feeding or limit feeding).
- 3) Animals under veterinarian directive to improve the body condition score.
- 4) Shipping and/or transportation.

Adopted and Approved by the IACUC
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