



## **Illinois Policy on the Monitoring and Documentation of Monitoring Animals at Risk of Developing Protocol Related Morbidity or Mortality**

**Purpose:** This document addresses the policy and guidelines for monitoring animals expected to develop protocol-related morbidity and mortality used in research or teaching at the UIUC.

**Policy:** The IACUC requires heightened clinical monitoring for all animals assigned to protocols that involve significant risk of clinical morbidity or mortality. The plan for this monitoring should be developed in advance of project implementation and outlined in the animal care and use protocol.

### **Guidelines:**

1. **Role of the investigator:** The investigator and research staff are responsible for monitoring animals at a frequency that is appropriate for the protocol-related conditions anticipated and must outline the details of this monitoring in the protocol. The protocol should also include specific behaviors, clinical signs and or physiologic parameters that would require clinical intervention or euthanasia (endpoints).

The PI is responsible for meeting and complying with any stipulations placed on the protocol during the protocol review process. Any unexpected morbidity or mortality (beyond what is outlined in the protocol) must be reported to veterinary staff immediately and to the IACUC within 48 hours. On-site information should clearly indicate which animals are involved in aspects of a protocol which results in increased monitoring. An example of appropriate identification would be a notation on a cage card that animals have been inoculated with the agent and date of inoculation included. The research staff is responsible for documenting the outlined monitoring and keeping the documentation with the animals. After the project is terminated, the IACUC must have access to historical records for three years following completion of the protocol.

2. **Role of the IACUC:** The IACUC is responsible for review of the proposed research activities including the proposed monitoring parameters and endpoints. In certain instances, the IACUC may place stipulations on protocols which require investigators to notify veterinary staff or the IACUC when animals are developing clinical signs (or are inoculated). The IACUC may also review historical records during semi-annual inspection or post-approval monitoring reviews.
3. **Role of the Veterinary Staff:** The veterinary staff should work with research staff upon request to help develop study-appropriate monitoring parameters and endpoints. The veterinary staff should assist the IACUC with post-approval monitoring as outlined in the protocol review stipulations.