Standard Operating Procedure for Analgesic Card Audits

Relief of postoperative pain is mandated by PHS policy as indicated in, **The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals** and is a major objective of all individuals involved in laboratory animal medicine. "The Guide," states that animals experiencing more than momentary or slight pain or distress require appropriate sedation, analgesia or anesthesia unless suitable, scientific justification is provided. Assessment of pain and distress in animals can be difficult, challenging and subjective. As such, and in accordance with the U S Government Principles for Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training, unless the contrary is established, it should be considered that procedures that cause pain or distress in humans may also cause similar effects in animals. The Attending Veterinarian is responsible for ensuring that adequate anesthesia, analgesia or sedation is provided.

To help our institution provide assurance to PHS and/or any external oversight agencies that proper pain management is being carried out, UCAR with perform monthly audits of the provision of pre-emptive and post-operative analgesics in laboratory animals (Be Gentle Post-Operative Rodent/Bird Cage cards) in animal housing rooms. Additionally, UCAR reviews the records of previous surgeries during routine laboratory visits.

If there are any questions/concerns with the monitoring and/or documentation of post-procedural analgesics, UCAR may collect information by following the steps listed below:

a. Obtain information which may include observing the animals, review any pertinent records, (e.g., animal health records, protocols, other documents including door card swipe records).
b. Conduct an interview with the animal surgeon and/or the Principal Investigator.
c. A report will be prepared including the findings of the investigation, and the matter will be discussed by UCAR at their next convened meeting.
d. The PI may respond in writing or by attending the next UCAR meeting to provide their point of view of the incident. UCAR will determine what further action, if any, will need to be taken.

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare considers unrelieved pain or distress a serious adverse event and provides guidance for Assured Institutions to promptly report non-compliance and other reportable situations. If UCAR determines that a serious adverse event involves reporting to an outside agency, a final report with UCAR recommendations, along with an action plan provided by the PI will be sent to the Institutional Official, the PI, and the PI's departmental chair. The Institutional Official will submit the report to the outside agency, if necessary, based on the report received from UCAR. All reports will be filed in the UCAR Office for documentation of the incident, the ensuing investigation, and how the noncompliance was ultimately resolved.

Reference:

1). Mohan, S., Hampton, L. & Silk, S. Adverse events at research facilities. *Lab Anim* **46,** 244–249 (2017). https://doi.org/10.1038/laban.1278

2). National Academy of Sciences. (2011). *Guide For The Care And Use Of Laboratory Animals*. WA: The National Academies Press.