

**Arizona State University  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
STANDARD INSTITUTIONAL GUIDELINE**

**PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

**A. Definition**

Physical restraint is the use of manual or mechanical means to limit some or all of an animal's normal movements for the purpose of examination, collection of samples, drug administration, therapy, or experimental manipulation.

**B. Methods of Restraint**

1. Animals may be restrained manually by trained personnel.
2. Animals may also be restrained with appropriate restraint devices. Such devices must be suitable in size, design, and operation in order to minimize discomfort and injury to the animal.

**C. Prolonged Restraint**

1. Prolonged restraint (i.e., any restraint that lasts longer than a few minutes and/or involves periods when the animal is not directly observed) will be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives and is approved by the IACUC.
2. When prolonged restraint devices are used, they must be specifically designed to accomplish research goals that are impossible or impractical to accomplish by other means or to prevent injury to animals or personnel.

**D. Guidelines for Restraint**

1. Restraint devices are **not** to be considered normal methods of housing.
2. Restraint devices are **not** to be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
3. The period of restraint is the **minimum** required to accomplish the research objectives.
4. Animals placed in restraint devices receive appropriate training to adapt to the equipment and personnel, unless the PI provides scientific justification as to why such acclimation would interfere with the aims of the experiment.
5. Provisions are made for observation of the restrained animal at levels appropriate for the restraint method, species, and research goals.
6. Veterinary care is provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. The presence of lesions, illness, or severe behavioral change may necessitate the temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint. Such removal of the animal from restraint is at the discretion of the DACT veterinarians. Additionally, restraint devices in which animals develop lesions would be carefully evaluated for physical defects or design flaws, and appropriate corrective measures are taken to minimize the chances of similar lesions developing in the future.

Reviewed 6/27/2024

Updated 6/24/2021

Updated 5/24/2018

7. Restraint devices are cleaned with the appropriate materials and at an appropriate frequency to ensure a sanitary environment.