I. **Purpose:** Brown University’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has adopted the following guidelines to clarify the classification of various animal use procedures into pain and distress categories. The intent of these guidelines is (i) to assist researchers with protocol preparation by describing the guidelines for assigning USDA-covered species and species used under Department of Defense funded protocols to pain and distress categories; and (ii) to ensure consistency among IACUC members in recommending categories of pain and distress when reviewing an animal care and use protocol.

II. **Definitions:** For the sake of these guidelines, the definitions of “pain” and “distress” as noted in *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide)* will be applied:

- “Pain is a complex experience that typically results from stimuli that damage or have the potential to damage tissue; such stimuli prompt withdrawal and evasive action (*the Guide*, p. 120).
- “Distress” may be defined as an aversive state in which an animal fails to cope or adjust to various stressors with which it is presented (*the Guide*, p. 121).

Distress may not induce an immediate and observable pathologic or behavioral alteration, making it difficult to monitor and evaluate the animal’s state when it is present. Both the duration and intensity of the animal’s state are important considerations when trying to prioritize attention to and treatment of animal distress (*the Guide*, p. 121)

III. **Guidelines:**

- Assign each animal or group of animals listed on a protocol to one of the following pain and distress categories: B, C, D or E. Examples of pain and distress categories are included in Appendix 1.
• If a procedure is done on an animal or group of animals (e.g., tail snip or euthanasia), list the animal(s) as category C or greater (D or E).
• Assign animals to the highest pain and distress category that will apply to the animal(s) at any time while the animal is listed on the protocol, even if it is for a short duration of time.
IV. Appendix 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category B</th>
<th>Category C</th>
<th>Category D</th>
<th>Category E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery, but not yet used for such purposes.</td>
<td>Animals upon which teaching, research, experiments, or tests will be conducted involving no pain, distress, or use of pain-relieving drugs.</td>
<td>Animals upon which teaching, experiments, teaching, research, surgery, or tests will be conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, tranquilizing drugs or other qualifying interventions will be used.</td>
<td>Animals upon which teaching, experiments, research, surgery, or tests will be conducted involving accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for which the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs will adversely affect the procedures, results, or interpretation of the teaching, research, experiments, surgery, or tests and, therefore, will be withheld.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**

1. Breeding colonies of any animal species that are handled in accordance with IACUC approval, the Guide and other applicable regulations. Breeding colony includes parents and offspring.
2. Newly acquired animals that are handled in accordance with IACUC approval and applicable regulations.
3. Animals held under proper captive conditions or wild animals that are being observed without manipulating the animal or its environment.
4. Exhibition.

**Example**

1. Manual restraint that is no longer than would be required for a simple exam; short period of chair restraint for an adapted nonhuman primate.
2. Observation – laboratory.
3. Tattoo; ear punch; microchip.
4. Rodent tail biopsy <21 days.
5. Peripheral injections.
6. Peripheral phlebotomy <10%.
7. Peripheral catheter placement.
8. Special diet – no clinical problems.
13. Imaging.
15. Nonsurgical embryo collection.

Brown University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
GUIDELINES for Assigning Animals into Pain and Distress Categories
Page 3 of 4
17. Gavage
18. Procedures performed correctly by trained personnel such as the administration of electrolytes/fluids, administration of oral medication, blood collection from a common peripheral vein per standard veterinary practice or catheterization of same, standard radiography, parenteral injections of non-irritating substances
19. Which will be alleviated by analgesics, anesthetics, tranquilizers, or supportive care
20. Protocols involving exercise
21. Painful
22. Antibody production using ascites
23. Footpad injections
24. Total body irradiation without reconstitution
25. Death as an endpoint
26. Chairing of nonhuman primates not conditioned to the procedure for the time period used
27. Unusual or prolonged restraint (please refer to the IACUC Policy on Physical Restraint for further guidance).

V. **References:**