

Toe-clipping for Identification of Rodents

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Category: Thomas Jefferson University Policies and Procedures

The IACUC has adopted the following policy for all investigators who utilize toe-clipping as a means of identification of rodents:

IACUC Policy

"Toe-clipping, as a method of identification of small rodents, should be used only when no other individual identification method is feasible and should be performed only on altricial neonates." (ILAR Guide page 46). The reasons for this restriction are the potential pain and distress of toe-clipping and the related public perception and concerns.

Any proposed or actual use of toe-clipping of rodents must be added to the RO-5 animal protocol. Each proposed practice of toe-clipping must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC based on the scientific justification presented by the investigator. The IACUC encourages investigators to contact the veterinary staff of the Office of Animal Resources for alternative methods of identification.