The intent of this policy is to outline the procedures for collection of oocytes from Amphibians, particularly *Xenopus laevis*, and for the use of a single animal for multiple oocyte collections.

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1. Policy
Amphibian oocytes are used for studies in molecular biology, embryology, and biochemistry. Stage I-VI oocytes are obtained by surgical laparotomy. Multiple surgeries on a single animal may be justified considering the reduction in the total number of animals used over the long term. However, the total number of animals used must be justified relative to the pain or distress experienced by an individual animal.

2. Procedures

i. The total number of laparotomies should be limited and will depend on the condition of the animal and quality of the oocytes as well as the life span of the animal and the duration of egg production. Up to five recovery surgeries (the 6th would be terminal) per animal are acceptable. Additional survival surgeries should have approval of the IACUC.

ii. Surgeries should be performed by trained personnel using appropriate anesthesia such as tricaine methane-sulfonate (MS-222). Surgeries should be done as aseptically as practical including the use of sterilized instruments and gloves.

iii. Single housing or small group housing for several days after surgery should be considered as part of the post surgical care of laparotomized animals. Animals must be monitored for at least two days after surgery for appetite changes and other adverse effects and the incision monitored routinely until suture removal. The incision site must be monitored closely for signs of necrosis, dehiscence, inflammation, or fungal infection.

iv. Skin sutures and wound clips, if non-absorbable, and not removed by animal, must be removed 18-21 days after surgery.

v. Adequate recovery time should be allowed between laparotomies. The investigator can alternate oocyte collection between left and right ovaries and consider rotation
of frogs so that the interval between surgeries in any individual is minimized. Recovery time of less than one month should have approval of the IACUC.

vi. The protocol must state a method used to identify animals after oocyte collection.

3. Regulatory Guidelines

http://oacu.od.nih.gov/ARAC/Index.htm

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