Trial of Refinement Technique under CARE Veterinarian’s Supervision

The intent of this policy is to describe the procedure for doing a trial of a refinement technique on an approved protocol, under CARE veterinary supervision, prior to filing an amendment.

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1. Policy
   a. An investigator who has an approved IACUC protocol and wishes to try a refinement of an approved procedure, anesthetic, analgesic, or other technique approved on the protocol prior to filing an amendment, may do so only under the direct supervision of a CARE veterinarian. In some instances, it may be the CARE veterinarian who instigates a recommended change.
   b. After the supervised trial, if the “refined” procedure or technique is deemed acceptable by the supervising CARE veterinarian, an amendment must be approved to modify the protocol appropriately to incorporate the new procedure/technique before the procedure can be adopted.

2. Procedure
   a. The principal investigator (PI) must contact CARE and discuss the proposed change with a CARE veterinarian.
   b. If the CARE veterinarian and investigator agree that the proposed modification appears to be an appropriate refinement of technique/procedure, the PIs and the CARE veterinarian will arrange to observe the procedure on a trial basis.
   c. After observation, if both the investigator and CARE veterinarian agree that the procedure/technique improves animal welfare and research results, the PI must file an amendment with the IACUC and have it approved.

3. Regulations and Guidelines
   AWR 2.33(b). Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include...guidance to principal investigators and other personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia.

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