

UMKC IACUC POLICY

Toe Clipping

The UMKC IACUC is obligated to provide policies that notify and train personnel concerning the appropriate techniques, equipment, and agents for performing appropriate procedures to ensure humane care and use of laboratory animals.

Policy

Toe clipping is a method for identification that involves a numerical scheme in which a toe or toes is/are amputated. **Any animal protocol submitted that includes toe clipping as a form of identification, must provide scientific justification for such method.** According to the 8th Edition of *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, “toe clipping, as a method of identification of small rodents, should be used only when no other individual identification method is feasible (tattooing, ear tags, or subcutaneous implantation of a transponder identification chip). It may be the preferred method for neonatal mice up to 7 days of age as it appears to have few adverse side effects on behavior and well being at this age, especially if toe clipping and genotyping is combined”. An example of where toe clipping is justified is when there is a need for permanent marking of a neonate along with early determination of genotype (toe as a tissue source).

Toe clipping should be performed only on neonates, 1-7 days postpartum. No more than 1 toe per limb may be clipped

1. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition. (National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 2011) pg. 75.

Applicable To:

All UMKC faculty, staff, employees and students involved in the care or use of animals owned by the UMKC.

Revisions to the Policy:

This policy is intended to be flexible and readily adaptable to changes in regulatory requirements. It is reviewed as part of the semiannual program reviews to assess whether it is appropriate. It will be changed as experience shows that a certain approach is not effective or suggests a better alternative. The UMKC IACUC has the authority to amend this policy.

Policy Approval:

The UMKC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has reviewed and approved this policy as attested by the signature of the Committee Chairperson.

Committee Chairperson

Date