**USDA Category B:** Include in Category B all animals that will be bred or purchased exclusively for breeding, and that will not undergo any procedures other than those required by currently accepted standards of medical care. This includes breeders, and any young that may be culled because of unusable gender, genotype, or date of birth. If numbers cannot be determined exactly, estimate the maximum expected, as closely as possible. (Note: Animals that must undergo tail snips for genotyping must be assigned to category C, D, or E.)

**USDA Category C:** Include in Category C all animals that will only undergo procedures that involve no more than very brief or minor pain or distress, for which no pain relieving drugs are needed. Examples include observational studies, most intravenous and parenteral injections of non-irritating agents, most blood collections from peripheral vessels, and euthanasia for post-mortem collection of cells and/or tissues.

**USDA Category D:** Include in Category D all animals that will only undergo no more than procedures that are potentially painful or distressing, but for which the pain or distress is prevented or relieved by appropriate anesthetics, sedatives, analgesics, or other means (e.g., acupuncture). Examples include surgery performed under anesthesia (major or minor, survival or non-survival), tissue or organ collections or other painful procedures performed on living animals under anesthesia (such as retro-orbital blood collection in rodents), prolonged restraint accompanied by tranquilizers or sedatives, and experiments with provisions for immediate euthanasia to effectively prevent pain and/or suffering in animals that are becoming sick. If an endpoint is defined such that the animals are likely to experience significant pain or distress, Category E is more appropriate.

**USDA Category E:** Include in Category E all animals that will undergo procedures in which pain or distress CANNOT be relieved. An important rule of thumb for deciding whether an animal should be assigned to Category E is to consider whether a human experiencing a comparable condition would be expected to seek relief. Examples include studies in which animals must be allowed to die without intervention (e.g. LD50, mortality as an end-point), studies that require endpoints that may be painful or stressful, studies that require withdrawal from addictive drugs (without palliative treatment), pain research, and studies that involve noxious stimuli that are not immediately escapable, food or water deprivation beyond that necessary for standard pre-surgical preparation, or paralysis or immobility in conscious animals.