# These animal monitoring templates are an adaptation of example monitoring scoresheets taken from the Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits, Agriculture Victoria, which can be found [here](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/codes/australian/).

# Please provide a daily monitoring scoresheet and one clinical welfare scoresheet with your submitted AEC application.

# Please choose from either Clinical Welfare Scoresheet example 2 or 3 and modify it according to your expected clinical signs for your animal model. Make sure all investigators understand the expected clinical signs for the model and how to score them. You do not need to include all criteria if you do not expect to observe them.

# In addition to providing a Daily Monitoring and Clinical Welfare Scoresheet, if your protocol involves surgery, please provide a Post-surgery scoresheet adapted to your procedure and animal model.

**Example 1: Daily Monitoring Scoresheet**

Investigator Name

Contact details

Animal Cage ID:

AEC Protocol No:

The Animal cage and its occupants are observed daily for:

* Each animal is examined and observed for abnormalities or positive behaviours daily as appropriate. “Animals Natural activity and Appearance:” e.g. Observant, active, still, isolated or normal, nest building
* Contents of Cage and bedding: e.g. Wet, Dry, moist faecal contents.
* Normal signs are recorded as N or A for abnormal in the table.

“Any changes observed that deviate from normal signs within the cage require the investigator to complete a separate daily clinical welfare score sheet assessment for each individual animal (See example 2 and 3). If surgical procedures are conducted, a surgical and post-surgery scoresheet should also be provided (See example 4). Records must be maintained by the investigator, kept for 7 years after the completion of the project, and submitted to AEC on request by the Animal ethics committee and examples provided with annual reports for the approved protocol.

**Observations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Monday** |  | **Tuesday** |  | **Wednesday** |  | **Thursday** |  | **Friday** |  | **Saturday** |  | **Sunday** |  | **Comments** |
| **Date Observed** | **Investigator Name** | **Normal N or Abnormal A** | **Clinical signs** | **Normal N or Abnormal A** | **Clinical signs** | **Normal N or Abnormal A** | **Clinical signs** | **Normal** | **Normal N or Abnormal A** | **Normal** | **Normal N or Abnormal A** | **Normal** | **Normal N or Abnormal A** | **Normal** | **Normal N or Abnormal A** |  |
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**Example 2 Clinical welfare score sheet to set Humane endpoints**

**Clinical signs severity scores. AEC Project Number:**

**Animal ID:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SIGNS** | **0** | **1** | **2** | **Immediate Human Endpoint required** |
| **Activity** | normal | isolated, abnormal posture | huddled/inactive  OR overactive | moribund  OR fitting |
| **Alertness/**  **sleeping** | normal | dull or depressed | little response to handling | unconscious |
| **Body condition\*** | normal | thin | loss of body fat, failure to grow | Significant loss of muscle mass |
| **Body weight\*** | normal weight and growth rate | reduced growth rate | chronic weight loss > 10% OR failure to grow | weight loss ≥ 15%  OR failure to grow & weight loss |
| **Breathing** | normal | rapid, shallow | rapid, abdominal breathing | laboured, irregular, skin blue |
| **Coat** | normal | coat rough | Unkempt, wounds, hair thinning | bleeding or infected wounds, or severe hair loss  OR self mutilation |
| **Dehydration** | none | skin less elastic | skin tenting | skin tenting & eyes sunken |
| **Drinking** | normal | increased OR decreased  intake over 24 hrs | increased OR decreased intake over 48 hours | constantly drinking OR not drinking over 24 hours |
| **Eating** | normal | increased OR decreased  intake over 24 hours | increased OR decreased intake over 48 hours | obese OR inappetence over 48 hours |
| **Eyes** | normal | wetness or dullness | discharge | eyelids matted |
| **Faeces** | normal | faeces moist | loose, soiled perineum OR abnormally dry  +/- mucus | running out on handling OR no faeces for 48 hrs OR frank blood on faeces |
| **Movement/**  **gait** | normal | slight uncoordination OR  abnormal gait | uncoordinated OR  walking on tiptoe OR reluctance to move | staggering OR limb dragging OR paralysis |
| **Nose** | normal | wetness | discharge | Coagulated and difficulty breathing |
| **Urine** | normal |  | abnormal colour/volume | no urine 24 hrs OR incontinent, soiled perineum |
| **Vocalisation** | normal | squeaks when palpated | struggles and squeaks loudly when  handled/palpated | Repeated abnormal vocalisation |
| **Cumulative Score** |  |  |  |  |

**These criteria may not apply in some situations (eg tumor growth, obesity/metabolic studies)**\*

**Judgement according to cumulative score:**

**1 - 3 = Mild Action required: Increase monitoring to twice daily**

**4 - 6 = Moderate Action required: Consult Biosciences Resources Facility Staff or arrange visit from consultant Veterinarian**

**7 or more = Substantive Action required: Immediate humane endpoint**

Signature of (Chief) Investigator Date

Reference: Morton, D.B. (1997) A scheme for the recognition and assessment of adverse effects in animals. In: Developments in animal and veterinary sciences, 27.

*Animal Alternatives, Welfare and Ethics*. pp 235-240. Eds van Zutphen, L.F.M. and Balls, M. Elsevier Science B.V.

**SPECIAL HUSBANDRY REQUIREMENTS\*\***

**Example 3: Clinical Welfare Scoresheet to set Humane Endpoints**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Animal ID:** | **D.O.B:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **AEC Project No:** | **Date of Procedure:** | **-2** | **-1** | **0** | **1**  **AM/PM** | **2** | **3** |  |
| Appearance/colour | Normal | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ruffed | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Hunched/trembling | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Listless | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Surface temperature and mucous  membrane colour | Congested | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pale pink | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Normal/warm | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Natural activity | Eating | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drinking | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Observant | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Active | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reflexes/respond to touch/pain | Still | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Normal withdrawal | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Aggressive | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Vocal | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wound healing | Normal | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discharge | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Discharge ++ | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Open Wound | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **SCORE** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Post procedure/surgery**  **requirements**  **(tick if provided)** | **Pain Relief** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Antibiotics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Fluids |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Hand feeding |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mushy Food |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Judgement:**

**1-4 = Mild Action (if any) required:**

**5-8 = Moderate** Signature of (Chief) Investigator Date

**9-12 = Substantive**

**Example 4: Post-Surgery Scoresheet**

This is a general assessment for all animals post-surgery or invasive procedures, which may be altered for each individual animal or research project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AEC Project Number: | Investigator Name and Contact: |
| Animal - Number: | Start Date & Surgery/Procedure Date: |
| Procedure: | Comments: |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OBSERVATIONS (Day in relation to**  **surgery)** | -3 | -2 | **-1** | **0** | 1  AM  PM | 2  AM  PM | 3  3 |
| DAY / DATE / TIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eating |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drinking |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Normal Walking |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vocalisation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grooming |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Staggering |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shivering/trembling/twitching |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hunched-up Appearance |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discharge from the surgical site |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

These daily observations should start 3 days before surgery.

On the day of surgery/procedure and for 2 days after surgery/procedure, observations should be made each morning and afternoon.

From day 2 post-surgery/procedure observations should then revert to a daily basis.

***Please Note:***

1. Analgesia should be administered for the first 12 and/or 24 hours and thereafter as determined by daily observation, any evidence of pain and speed of return to normal behaviour.

2. If any abnormal behaviour is observed or if there is discharge from the wound, please contact the Biosciences Resources Facility Manager on telephone: 5552 8308. The consultant Vet is available to attend surgical procedures or for any concerns post-surgery. Please contact the Animal Ethics Coordinator on telephone 3735 6648 or email animal-ethics@griffith.edu.au to arrange an appointment.