Purpose:
This SOP serves the purpose to describe the procedure for doing a trial of a refinement technique on an approved protocol, under AV supervision, prior to filing an amendment.

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1) SOP:
   a. An investigator who has an approved IACUC protocol and wishes to evaluate 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 oversight of the AV. In some instances, it may be the AV who instigates a recommended change.
   b. After the supervised trial, if the “refined” procedure or technique is deemed acceptable by the AV, an amendment must be approved by the IACUC to modify the protocol appropriately to incorporate the new procedure/technique.

2) Procedure:
   a. The PI must contact the AV and discuss the proposed changes.
   b. If the AV and investigator agree that the proposed modification appears to be an appropriate refinement of technique/procedure, the PI and the AV will arrange to provide oversight of the procedure/technique on a trial basis.
   c. After observation, if both the investigator and AV 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) Regulatory Mandates and SOPs
   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.

History:
Version 00 - Petra Collyer
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