Location: Queen′s University

Responsibility: Principal Investigators (PI), Research Staff, Veterinary Staff

Purpose: This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines the steps that must be taken to establish humane interventions for animal research models. These interventions are to be determined and described on each and every Animal Use Protocol.
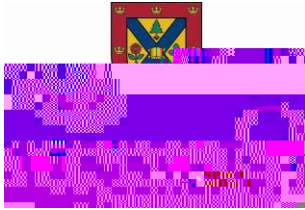
1. Introduction and Definitions

Humane interventions are clear criteria set *a priori* to define the point at which an experimental animal's pain and/or distress is terminated, minimized or reduced, by taking appropriate actions such as

When are the effects to the animal expected to be the most severe?

If the course of the disease and expected signs of the adverse effects are unknown, could an initial (pilot) study, under close observation by the investigator and/or veterinary staff, answer these questions?
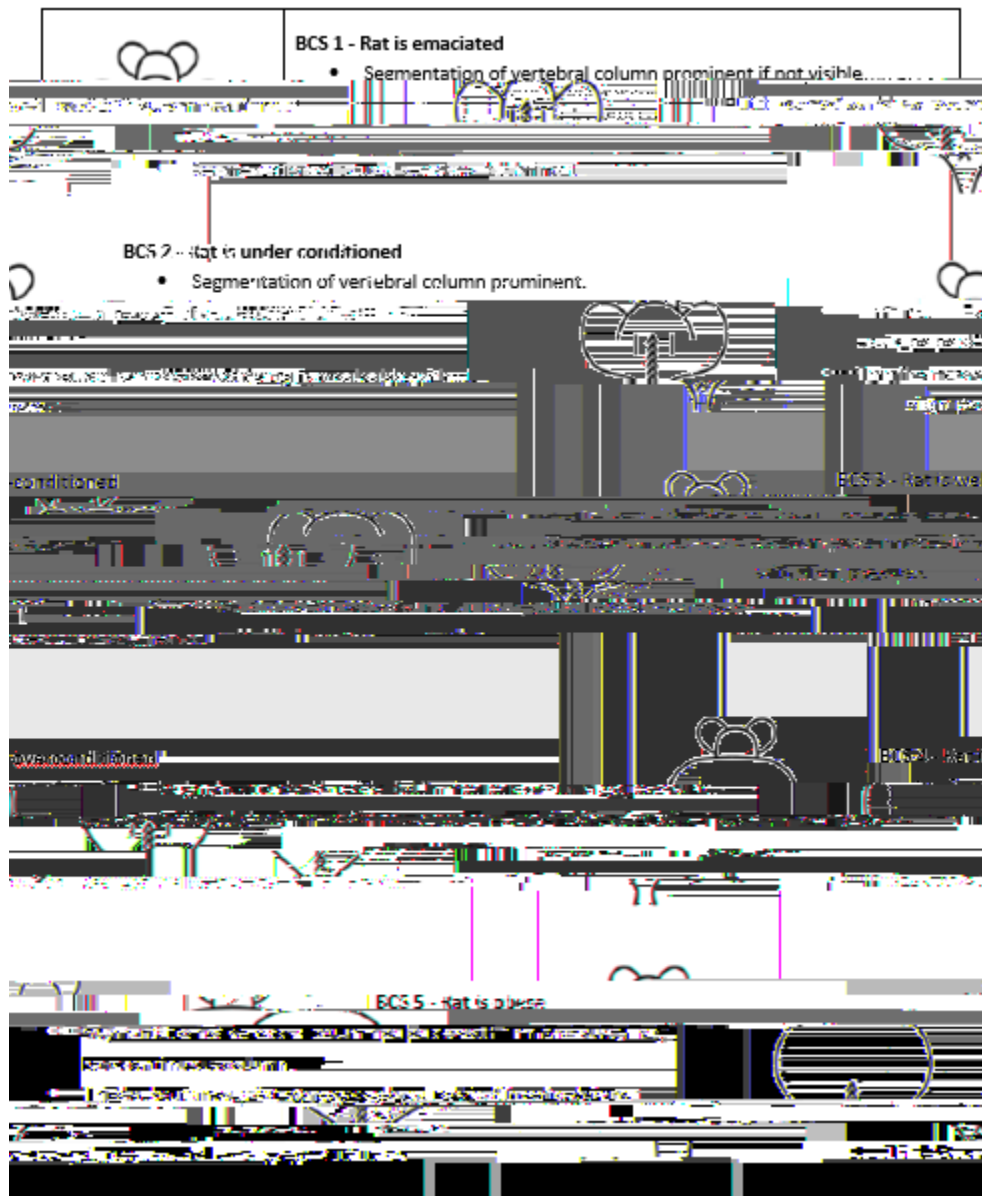
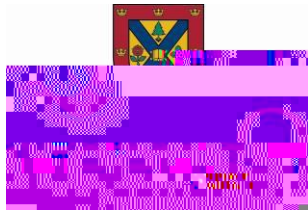Has a checklist of observations, on which the interventions

j. Self-mutilation.
k. Specific organ failure assessed by physical examination and, where possible, ancillary tests (hematology, biochemistry, imagery, etc.).
l. Respiratory distress: labored breathing, increased or decreased respiratory rate, cyanosis.
m. Hunched posture, lethargy and lack of grooming.
n. Incoordination, paralysis.
o. Abnormal vocalizations.

Body Condition Scoring for Rats:

https://www.mcgill.ca/research/files/research/Article_BCS_for_Rats.pdf

References:

1. Guidelines for Assessing the Health and Condition of Mice. Charmaine J. Foltz and Mollie Ullman- Cullere. *Lab Animal.* April 1999. Vol 28, No. 4, pps. 28-32.

http://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Appropriate_endpoint.pdf

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