

Ageing Rodent Monitoring Sheet

AEC Project Number:		Chief Investigator Name and Number					
Animal ID Number:		Responsible Person Name and Number					
Date:							
Activity: Normal (0) Reduced (1) Huddled/inactive (2) Moribund (3)							
Alertness: Normal (0) Depressed (1) Reduced responsiveness (2) Unconscious (3)							
Movement: Normal (0) Abnormal gait or lame (1) Incoordinated or multiple lameness (2) Paralysed (3)							
Coat: Normal or Barbering (0) Piloerection (1) Wound, itchy or other skin problem (2) Infected or bleeding wound (3)							
Breathing: Normal (0) Exaggerated (1) Laboured (2) Gasping (3)							
Eyes: Normal (0) White lens, watery, porphyrin (1) Ulcer or white/yellow discharge (2) Damaged or bleeding (3)							
Nose: Normal (0) Watery discharge (1) White/yellow discharge (2) Crusted or matted discharge (3)							
Faeces: Normal (0) Soft (1) Diarrhoea or mucus present (2) Blood or none >48 hours (3)							
Seizure activity: None (0) Mild, occasional (1) Mild, frequent (2) Severe (3)							
Weight (corrected for tumour weight) Weight steady or increase (0) Acute or chronic weight loss <5% (1) Acute or chronic weight loss <10% (2) Acute loss >10% or chronic loss >15% (3)							
Tumour size and appearance No tumour present (0) Single tumour present (1) Multiple tumours present (2) Ulcerated/bleeding tumour (3)							
Tumour volume (Length mm x width mm x width mm /2)							
Other observations							

The observations on this monitoring sheet should be completed as outlined in Monitoring of Rodents SOP 0081. Abnormalities should be acted upon, as outlined in the AEC approved project or failing that, as indicated in the table below. When an abnormality is found, further advice may be obtained from the LARTF veterinarian on ext 1482.

Score	Inform	Action
0 in all categories	N/A	None required
1 in any category	Responsible Person via email or tick@lab.	Increase monitoring to once daily (if appropriate) and take simple supportive action such as supplemental feeding (if appropriate).
1 in three or more categories	Responsible Person and LARTF veterinarian by phone or in person.	Increase monitoring to once daily and take appropriate supportive action. This might include provision of warmth, pain relief or subcutaneous fluids.
2 in any category	Responsible Person and LARTF veterinarian by phone or in person	Increase monitoring to twice daily and take appropriate supportive or defined action. This might include provision of warmth, pain relief or subcutaneous fluids or other defined action. In some cases, humane killing may be required.
3 in any category	Chief Investigator or Responsible Person and LARTF veterinarian by phone or in person	Humane killing required. Request permission from CI or Responsible Person if immediately available, otherwise kill as soon as possible.

Animals that are being aged should be monitored at the frequency indicated in the table below or as approved by the AEC.

Age	Monitoring frequency
16 – 18 months	Weekly observations including weight
18 – 24 months	Twice weekly observations including weight
24+ months	Three times weekly observations including weight

Tumour size and appearance – for animals that develop visible tumours

- **No tumour present** (score 0) – a tumour has not yet developed
- **Single tumour present** (score 1) – It should be measured and the tumour volume calculated (length in mm x width in mm x width in mm / 2). The calculated volume must be compared with the size permitted in the approved project (often 1500mm³ is the maximum total volume of tumour permitted). The calculated volume in mm³ should be divided by 1000 to give the weight of the tumour and this should be subtracted from the animal's weight when calculating weight loss.
- **Multiple tumours present** (score 2) - each tumour should be measured and the volumes and weights calculated and combined when checking against project approved tumour volume and weight loss.
- **Ulcerated/bleeding** (score 3) – the tumour is ulcerated (the overlying skin has disappeared and may now be covered in a scab) or the tumour has started to bleed.