

## **Rutgers ACFC Policy on Analgesia for Rodent Surgery**

1. Researchers should assume that even minor surgery in rodents may result in postoperative pain.
2. While there may be interspecies differences, assume that procedures which are painful in humans are painful for rodents.
3. Researchers should consult with a Laboratory Animal Services veterinarian in planning for rodent surgery.
4. Pain relief should be provided routinely for potential postoperative pain unless a sound, written, scientific justification is made that pain relief will interfere with experimental results.
5. Rodents should be evaluated regularly throughout the postoperative period. A standardized behavior based scoring system is one means to do this.
6. The analgesic regimen should be adjusted to the level of pain or discomfort. While pain management should be based on an ongoing assessment in individual animals, animal use protocols should provide for a minimum plan of pain management for all animals.
7. Postoperative pain relief is best provided by a combination of preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative intervention which may include drugs and non-pharmaceutical interventions.

Approved by the Rutgers Animal Care and Facilities Committee March 22, 2006