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# Animal Ethics Committee (AEC)

### ~ **MONITORING SHEET TEMPLATE: INTENSIVE OBSERVATION** ~

Ethics Approval for Research Involving Animals

**Instructions**

* Insert Principal Investigator or Supervisor’s name and the emergency contact numbers in the space provided on the monitoring sheets. These should be consistent with the AEC Application and Approval.
* Monitoring frequency will vary from twice daily after surgery and decrease as the animal improves.
* These monitoring records are intended to be applicable to a wide range of projects, if you would like to use a different monitoring sheet please contact the Ethics Office ([animalethics@une.edu.au](mailto:animalethics@une.edu.au)).

**Monitoring sheet: Intensive Observation:**

* This sheet is for use during periods when the wellbeing of an animal may potentially be compromised e.g. disease models; administration of drugs or other treatments; post-surgery.
* **Monitoring groups**
  + “cage” should be selected when you are monitoring 1 cage of animals on a single sheet.
  + “individual” should be selected when you are monitoring 1 animal on a single sheet.
* **Monitoring criteria**
  + The general clinical signs listed are applicable and are organised by severity grade (1, 2, or 3).
  + Add any additional clinical signs that are specific to your project in the **‘Project Specific Signs’** sectionand include the severity grade (1, 2, or 3) in brackets. Examples of specific criteria: *Blood glucose; blood pressure; tumour size and ulceration; surgical wound; injection site; temperature; respiratory rate; heart rate; withdrawal reflex.*
* **Grades**
  + Grade 1 – Animal must be monitored again within 8 hours; if the signs have not improved advice must be sought from the CI or a veterinarian.
  + Grade 2 – Advice must be sought from the CI or a veterinarian.
  + Grade 3 – The animal must be immediately euthanised to prevent further suffering.
* Detailed notes and an action plan may be recorded in the **‘Detailed Record’** on the next page.

**Monitoring Sheet: Intensive Observation**

|  |  |
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| **Authority Number** | AEC |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Principal Investigator/Supervisor’s Name** |  |
| **Emergency Phone No. (work/mobile)** |  |
| **Cage No’s** |  |
| **Room No** |  |
| **Strain** |  |
| **Animal ID No’s** |  |
| **Monitoring group:**   Cage/Pen  Individual  Other (specify) | |
| **Frequency of monitoring:**  Twice Daily  Daily  3 x weekly  Other (specify) | |

**NAD (No abnormalities detected) –** No action required

**Grade 1 –** Monitor againwithin 8 hours; if not improved seek advice from CI or veterinarian

**Grade 2 –** Seek advice from CI or veterinarian; euthanasia may be required

**Grade 3 –** Euthanise animal immediately to prevent further suffering

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| **Date or Time**  **Monitoring criteria** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Observer initials** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **NAD** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weight (grams) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grade 1 signs** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ruffled fur |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lethargic or hyperactive |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shallow or rapid breathing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grade 2 signs** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altered gait |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hunched posture |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diarrhoea |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discharge at any orifice |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eyes partially closed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Laboured breathing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enlarged abdomen |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wounds or other lesions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blood in cage or on animal |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prolapse |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Repetitive behaviour (e.g backflips; running in circles) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Thin |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weight loss >15% BW |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grade 3 signs** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gasping respiration |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Low response to stimuli |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Emaciated |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Project Specific Signs (Grade 1, 2, or 3 in brackets)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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**Monitoring Sheet: Detailed Record**

***\*NOTE:*** *Record animal ID, observations, progress of an animal’s condition, treatments given, and the plan on this page.*

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| **Date** | **Details of abnormal finding, action taken, and plan** | **Initials** |
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