**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

**Appendix B: Sample Representative Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Charts for Rodents (**[**See Policy #8 for details**](https://iacuc.wsu.edu/documents/2017/12/policy-8.pdf)**)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **MICE** |  | **RATS** |
|  | **BC 1****Mouse is emaciated*** Skeletal structure extremely prominent, little or no flesh cover
* Vertebrae distinctly segmented
 |  | **BC 1****Rat is emaciated*** Segmentation of vertebral column prominent if not visible
* Little or no flesh cover over dorsal pelvis, pins prominent if not visible
* Segmentation of caudal vertebrae prominent
 |
|  | **BC 2****Mouse is under-conditioned*** Segmentation of vertebral column evident
* Dorsal pelvic bones are readily palpable
 |  | **BC 2****Rat is under-conditioned*** Segmentation of vertebral column prominent
* Thin flesh cover over dorsal pelvis, little subcutaneous fat, pins easily palpable
* Thin flesh cover over caudal vertebrae, segmentation palpable with slight pressure
 |
|  | **BC 3****Mouse is well-conditioned*** Vertebrae and dorsal pelvis not prominent, palpable with slight pressure
 |  | **BC 3****Rat is well-conditioned*** Segmentation of vertebral column easily palpable
* Moderate subcutaneous fat store over pelvis, pins easily palpable with slight pressure
* Moderate fat store around tail base, caudal vertebrae may be palpable but not segmented
 |
|  | **BC 4****Mouse is over-conditioned*** Spine is a continuous column
* Vertebrae palpable only with firm pressure
 |  | **BC 4****Rat is over-conditioned*** Segmentation of vertebral column palpable with slight pressure
* Thick subcutaneous fat store over dorsal pelvis, pins of pelvis palpable with firm pressure
* Thick fat store over tail base, caudal vertebrae not palpable
 |
|  | **BC 5****Mouse is obese*** Mouse is smooth and bulky
* Bone structure disappears under flesh and subcutaneous fat
 |  | **BC 5****Rat is obese*** Segmentation of vertebral column palpable with firm pressure, may be a continuous column
* Thick subcutaneous fat store over dorsal pelvis, pins of pelvis not palpable with firm pressure
* Thick fat store over tail base, caudal vertebrae not palpable
 |

**Appendix C: Representative Scoring System for Determining Humane Endpoints (See Policy #8 for details)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Score** |
| **Body Weight Changes** |  |
| 0 | Normal |
| 1 | < 10 percent weight loss |
| 2 | 10-15 percent weight loss |
| 3 | > 20 percent weight loss |
| **Body Condition Score (see diagram for details)** |  |
| 0 | Body condition score >3 |
| 1 | BCS >2 and < 3 |
| 2 | BCS >1 and <2 |
| 3 | BCS of 1 or less |
| **Physical Appearance** |  |
| 0 | Normal |
| 1 | Lack of grooming |
| 2 | Rough coat, nasal/ocular discharge |
| 3 | Very rough coat, abnormal posture, enlarged pupils |
| **Measurable Clinical Signs** |  |
| 0 | Normal |
| 1 | Small changes of potential significance |
| 2 | Body temp change of 1-2 ○ C, cardiac and respiratory rates ↑ up to 30% |
| 3 | Body temp change of 1-2 ○ C, cardiac and respiratory rates ↑ up to 50%, or markedly reduced |
| **Unprovoked Behavior** |  |
| 0 | Normal |
| 1 | Minor changes |
| 2 | Abnormal, reduced mobility, decreased alertness, inactive |
| 3 | Unsolicited vocalizations, self-mutilation, either very restless or immobile |
| **Behavioral Responses to External Stimuli** |  |
| 0 | Normal |
| 1 | Minor depression/exaggeration of response |
| 2 | Moderately abnormal responses |
| 3 | Violent reactions, or comatose |
|  |  | **TOTAL:** |  |

*Note: This scoring template should be modified for specific species and designed to fit each protocol and animal model. In this example, a score is assigned to each variable, 0 (normal or mild) to 3 (severe). The cumulative score gives an indication of the likelihood that the animal is experiencing pain or distress. Humane endpoints can be established based on these criteria. A total score of >5 or a score of 3 in any one variable, regardless of the total score should warrant mandatory evaluation/decision by a veterinarian or humane euthanasia*