**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*