Appendix 1: Optional Facility/Laboratory Signage

University of Pittsburgh | Institutional Animal Care and Use
Office of Research Protections

Rodent Survival Surgery Guidelines

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Definitions

Asepsis: A condition in which living pathogenic organisms are absent; a state of sterility.

Aseptic surgery: The performance of an operation with sterile gloves, instruments, etc., and utilizing precautions against the introduction of infectious microorganisms from without.

Sterilization Methods

- Autoclave - steam under pressure
- Ethylene oxide gas
- Hot bead sterilizer – Hot bead sterilizers can only be used between animals to re-sterilize the tips of the surgical instruments once fully autoclaved. Sterile saline or sterile water is used for cooling. Apply this method for up to 5 consecutive animals on the same sterilized instrument pack.

Guidelines

1. Survival surgery must be performed in specifically designated areas, solely dedicated (during such times) for this purpose.

2. The designated place of surgery must be uncluttered and amenable to appropriate sanitation.

3. Standard surgical preparations of the animal operative site must be performed, including hair clipping, antiseptic cleansing of the skin, and appropriate sterile draping to maintain aseptic conditions.

4. Surgeons must wear sterile gloves, a surgical mask, hair cover, and clean scrubs and/or a clean gown or clean and dedicated lab coat over street clothes. Note: Sterile gloves are individually packaged and marked “sterile surgical gloves.”

5. Surgical instruments and supplies must be sterilized prior to use and between surgical procedures. Instruments must be maintained on a sterile surface during the procedure.

6. Animals must be observed and monitored post operatively until they are awake and show evidence of spontaneous and voluntary movement within their cage, before returning to their respective animal holding rooms.

7. Questions concerning these guidelines should be directed to the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources Veterinary Staff at 412-648-8950.