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IG027: WEIGHT LOSS WITHIN RESEARCH PROCEDURES

Animal weight loss greater than the standard allowable (15% from recognized growth curves, baseline weight, or age matched control animals) within research procedures is an indication for intervention. If intervention is indicated, it must include a veterinary consultation, appropriate supportive care, or euthanasia, if the weight loss represents a humane endpoint criterion.

Anticipated weight loss greater than the standard allowable requires:

1. Scientific justification in the animal use protocol
2. That behavior, activity, body weight and body condition are routinely monitored
3. A description in the animal use protocol of the methods and records/tracking system that will be used to monitor weight loss and the body condition of the animal during the study

Protocols involving caloric restriction will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Note: this guideline does not apply to normal, seasonal, or physiological weight changes that may occur in the lifespan of the animal.