WEIGHT LOSS WITHIN RESEARCH PROCEDURES

Animal weight loss greater than the standard allowable (15% from recognized growth curves 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:

- scientific justification in the Animal Use Form (AUF).
- that body weight is routinely monitored during a research procedure that includes reduced intake of food or water.
- a description in the AUF 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.