

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Animal Numbers Approved in a Protocol		
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A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states that “justification of the species and number of animals proposed; whenever possible, the number of animals and experimental group sizes should be statistically justified” should be included in an animal use protocol.
- b. The PHS Policy states that the “identification of the species and approximate number of animals to be used” should be included in an animal use protocol.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to justify the number of animals requested in the protocol using citations of previous research, using a power analysis, or other means (why a specific number of tissues is needed, for example).
- b. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to review all justifications for animal numbers. They must ensure that a sufficient but not excessive number of animals are used.

C. PROCEDURES

- a. Principal Investigators should enter the amount of animals required for studies in an animal use protocol. Justification for the number of animals should be adequately described in the protocol (using numbers per group as previously used in published work, using a power analysis, or other specific explanations to describe the need for the number of animals requested).
- b. The three-year total is the number of animals that can be used during the three-year approval period.
- c. When additional animals are requested, this should be done via an amendment and SOP 002 Amendments to Approved Protocols should be followed.

D. REFERENCES

- a. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (2011). *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.
- b. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. NIH, Office of the Director. Revised 2015.