

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE**

Policy and Guidelines for Arthritis Studies

1. Footpad injections with Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA) are not acceptable unless scientifically justified in your protocol and approved by the IACUC.
2. The use of intradermal injections must be scientifically justified over other routes of administration and must be approved by the IACUC.
3. Routes, volumes, dosages, dosing schedules, and contents of injections must be written into the protocol.
4. All injection dates will be written clearly on the cage card to facilitate care of animals with ACP husbandry staff.
5. The site of injection will be monitored daily post-injection for evidence of severe inflammation, ulceration, or for very large granuloma formation.
6. The animals will be monitored daily for evidence of pain, distress, or infection resulting from the injection. The protocol will state what will be done to relieve the pain and distress for animals showing these signs.
7. A schedule for monitoring animals and injection sites must be included in the protocol.
8. If early signs of infection at the injection site are detected, the ACP veterinary staff will be consulted regarding treatment versus euthanasia.
9. Animals with ulcerated injection sites will be monitored a minimum of three times per week by the PI or his/her staff. Animals must be treated and observed daily or euthanized if there is evidence of significant infection.
10. Arthritis measurements will be determined regularly after animals show difficulty ambulating or pain on manipulation of affected joints. The frequency of these measurements is stated in the protocol. A description of how measurements are performed will be stated in the protocol.
11. When severity of arthritis prevents easy access to food and water, the ACP staff will be notified that these animals are to receive water bottles with long sipper tubes and food in the bottom of the cage.
12. Animals in painful studies such as adjuvant arthritis must be administered effective analgesics unless the lack of analgesics is scientifically justified in your protocol.
13. Adjuvant arthritis experiments will be terminated by day 30 unless described in your protocol and approved by the IACUC. Animals will also be euthanized if:
 - a. Weight loss exceeds 20%
 - b. Animals are unable to eat or drink
 - c. Excessive skin breakdown occurs in arthritic joints
 - d. General health of the animal is at a level requiring euthanasia for humane reason
14. It is a violation of federal guidelines if the condition of the animal is found not to be in accordance with the approved protocol on daily health checks by the animal care staff or the PI. The IACUC recognizes that unexpected results may occur and the PI may need to submit an amendment to apply for exceptions to these guidelines at a critical time period in an approved protocol.