

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

**Policy on "Death as an Endpoint" Studies**

Death as an endpoint studies are generally not approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Investigators are expected to justify the use of death as an endpoint in the Animal Use Protocol application and the written justification will be reviewed by the IACUC. If approved, investigators are expected to monitor animals at least daily including weekends and holidays.

The scientific justification for use of death as an endpoint must include:

1. what alternatives were considered and why morbidity can't be used in place of death
2. what additional information is gained in the interval between moribund condition and death
3. the number of animals in survival duration protocols should be clearly stated, as well as the statistical techniques used to estimate the numbers in the study groups.

The IACUC recognizes that unexpected results may occur and the Principal Investigator may need to apply for exceptions to these guidelines at a critical time period in an approved protocol. When an immediate change is scientifically justified, the PI needs to submit a protocol amendment.