

USDA Pain and Distress Categories

USDA Category B	USDA Category C	USDA Category D	USDA Category E
No pain or distress	Slight or momentary pain or distress that generally does not require anesthetics/analgesics	Pain or distress appropriately relieved by analgesia, tranquilization or anesthesia	Unrelieved pain or distress. Note: MAF typically will not fund studies that fall within Category E
Examples	Examples	Examples	Examples
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animals being maintained without any research manipulation 2. Observation of animal behavior without manipulating the animal or its environment 3. Routine husbandry procedures 4. Breeding colonies with no experimental manipulations 5. Collection of body fluids or tissues postmortem 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding, weighing or transporting animals (relatively short distances under non-stressful conditions) 2. Physical restraint and preventive medical procedures such as routine vaccination 3. Venipuncture, cystocentesis, fecal collection by manual evacuation or fecal loop, hair pulling for genetics. 4. Injections (non-irritating), blood collection or catheterization of superficial vessels 5. Tattooing, microchipping, or ear tagging of animals 6. Observation of animal behavior with manipulation of the animal or its environment 7. Procedures, which do not result in clinical signs of pain and/or distress (e.g. abdominal ultrasound performed awake) 8. AVMA-approved humane euthanasia procedures 9. Live trapping (traps must provide adequate shelter/food and be checked frequently to ensure survival) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potentially stressful transportation or handling of animals requiring tranquilization 2. Surgical procedures 3. Skin biopsy with local anesthetic 4. Exposure of blood vessels for catheter implantation 5. Infusion under anesthesia 6. Genetically engineered phenotype that causes pain or distress that will be alleviated 7. Any post-procedure outcome that causes noticeable pain, discomfort, or distress—such as reduced appetite or activity, sensitivity to touch, open skin lesions, abscesses, lameness, conjunctivitis, corneal edema, or light sensitivity — but is alleviated with analgesics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any procedures where indicated analgesics, tranquilizers, sedatives, or anesthetics are withheld for study purposes 2. Euthanasia by non-AVMA approved procedures 3. Burns or trauma 4. Radiation sickness 5. Toxicological or microbiological testing, cancer or infectious disease research that requires continuation until clinical symptoms are evident or death occurs 6. Experimental induction of disease including metabolic and nutritional diseases or disease resulting from exposure to toxicants 7. Mutants with chronic pain or debilitation 8. Food or water deprivation that exceeds ordinary pre-surgical preparation or is stressful to the animal 9. Application of noxious stimuli (i.e. electrical shock) that cannot be avoided or escaped 10. Restraint using paralyzing or immobilizing drugs without anesthesia or prolonged restraint for long periods of time 11. Exposure to abnormal or extreme environmental conditions 12. Behavior or testing resulting in injury to cage mates or self 13. Studies that allow endpoints that are painful or stressful (i.e., addictive drug withdrawals without treatment, pain research)