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The following policy formally defines major and minor surgical procedures for protocols submitted to the Howard University IACUC. This list is not inclusive of all possible surgical scenarios and each individual protocol is subject to IACUC review and approval. Contact the IACUC Coordinator, Chair, or Veterinarian if unsure of classification.

DEFINITIONS

- **Major Surgical Procedure:**
Major surgery according to the *Guide* is any operative procedure which “penetrates and exposes a body cavity or produces substantial impairment of physical or physiological functions (such as laparotomy, thoracotomy, craniotomy, joint replacement, and limb amputation).”
- **Minor Surgical Procedure:**
Minor surgery according to the *Guide* is any operative procedure that “does not expose a body cavity and causes little or no physical impairment (such as wound suturing, peripheral-vessel cannulation, and most procedures routinely done on an “outpatient” basis in veterinary clinical practice).”

All surgical animal protocols require a detailed description of the procedure and associated techniques, along with qualifications and experience of the surgeon.

Non-survival surgeries (when the animal is euthanized before recovering from anesthesia) may not require the same techniques involved in survival procedures, but still follow the same classification guidelines above when defining the procedure in the animal protocol.

Policy Approved by: _____ Date: _____
(IACUC Chair)

Policy Approved by: _____ Date: _____
(Attending Veterinarian)