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The following policy defines the Howard University's IACUC's guidelines for withholding food and water from animals for study purposes, and special feeding exceptions. Contact the IACUC Coordinator, Chair, or Veterinarian if unsure of classification. Specific details regarding food/water restrictions and feeding exceptions will be thoroughly described in the approved protocol.

Food/Water Restrictions

- **Short term restriction:**
Food and/or water may be withheld for up to 24 hours. Scientific justification must be provided in the protocol. Final approval is subject to IACUC discretion. If water is being withheld, animals must be regularly monitored during the fasting period. Period of monitoring for water restriction (i.e. every 2 hours, every 4 hours) must be specifically stated in the protocol. Animals exhibiting signs of dehydration (inelasticity of skin, rough hair coat, sinking of eyes into the orbit) will be provided water immediately.
- **Long term restriction:**
Studies requiring long term food and/or water restrictions (controlled access to feed and water) are subject to IACUC approval and require consistent monitoring (i.e. twice daily, daily- specifically described in the protocol) by research staff. Scientific justification must be provided in the protocol, including description of a program to monitor physiologic or behavioral changes, documentation of body weights, and percentage change in individual animal body weights.

Feeding Exceptions

- Feeding animals from the cage floor is acceptable under the following conditions and should be described in the IACUC protocol if anticipated prior to study start:
 - If animals are recently weaned (< 5 days) or cannot properly reach the feeder.
 - During pregnancy or prior to weaning of litter.
 - If necessary due to animals' reduced mobility (recovering from surgery, cranial implants or devices that restrict access)
- Animals can be fed from the cage floor without IACUC approval if recommended by the facility veterinarian.
- All cages, where animals are being fed from the cage floor, must be properly identified with notation on the cage card.

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

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