

TITLE:	Tumors in Rodents
Policy Number:	2014-017
Responsible Department:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy Contact:	IACUCOffice@westernu.edu
Approval Date:	8/13/14
Reviewed:	6/7/17; 3/11/2020
Revised:	3/11/2020 (wordsmithing)

Purpose of Policy: To ensure that laboratory animals with tumors large enough to adversely affect their overall well-being will be humanely euthanized as soon as possible regardless of the experimental objectives.

Policy Information: The impact of a tumor on an animal is judged not only by tumor size but also on how it affects the animal's well-being. If any of the following criteria are met, the animal must be humanely euthanized as soon as possible even if it does not coincide with the experimental objectives. Exceptions to this policy will require rigorous scientific justification and approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

- interference with the animal's ability to ambulate or obtain food and water
- obstruction of any orifice (eye, ear, nose, mouth, respiratory, digestive and urinary tracts)
- [body condition score](#) of less than 2
- subcutaneous masses greater than 1.5 cm (mice) or 2.5 cm (rats) in any dimension (In case of multiple tumors, consult with the Attending Veterinarian)
- skin necrosis/ulceration over the tumor
- extreme lethargy, i.e. unresponsive to mild stimulation
- signs of metastases e.g. seizures and labored breathing
- signs of pain e.g. chewing or excessive grooming of tumor and surrounding area, vocalization
- infection, hemorrhaging, self-mutilation
- achieves a size that interferes with normal activity or body functions

Tumors in body cavities such as the cranium, orbit, abdomen or thorax may be more difficult to monitor and may have additional limitations regarding tumor size. The Attending Veterinarian should be consulted in such cases.

It is the principal investigator's responsibility to ensure that all animals with tumors are observed daily, including weekends and holidays, to monitor tumor development and assess each animal's overall condition.

The Attending Veterinarian has the authority to euthanize or to order euthanasia of any animal that, in his/her clinical judgment, meets any of the above criteria.