

Guidelines on Photographs and Videos Involving Laboratory Animals for Research and Teaching Purposes

Photographs and videos involving live, or dead laboratory animals can be easily misunderstood by lay persons or misrepresented by animal rights extremists, generating unwanted and even violent consequences for those persons affiliated with the photograph or video of interest. To avoid or minimize such outcomes, the following guidelines are provided:

- Show only that portion of the animal necessary rather than the entire animal whenever possible. For example, drape the entire surgical site to cover the rest of an animal besides the incision window for example. Use drawings in place of animals for instructional photos or videos when possible.
- If tumors, abscesses, or other lesions are to be photographed in situ, isolate the anatomic site of interest using a close-up shot or a drape covering the rest of the animal. Alternatively, excise the organ or tissue of interest prior to taking a photograph. Ensure tumors are within IACUC-approved size limits.
- Ensure any procedures captured in video are conducted in accordance with the approved protocol, and any anesthetized animals are fully anesthetized.
- Any surgical procedures must meet IACUC policy regarding anesthesia, analgesia, surgical technique, and post-operative monitoring and care (aseptic precautions; clean, uncluttered space, etc.)
- The Facility Veterinarian, or designee, must be in attendance for media video/photo shoots to ensure the health/welfare of the animals is not at risk (ensure no excessive hot lighting etc.).
- Names and room numbers or other identifying information should not be captured in photos or videos.
- Only healthy animals should be used, unless the nature of the video or photo requires otherwise.
- Tanks, cages etc. should be clean
- Personnel must wear appropriate PPE.
- Videos and photos should not be posted on personal social media sites and must be stored securely (not on personal phones or tablets).
- Permission for videographers/photographers to enter the animal facilities for this purpose must be obtained in advance from the Director CCM.