Weight Loss Guidelines

Anticipated weight loss over 10% in growing animals and over 20% in adult animals due to experimental manipulation must be stated in the Animal Use Application with scientific justification. Animals must be monitored closely (including a baseline weight) by the investigator. If animals are approaching the weight loss limits approved in the protocol, it is important for the investigator to contact the Attending Veterinarian to inspect the welfare of the animals on trial.

When using weight loss as an endpoint criterion, 10% is the standard used for studies when weight loss is not expected. Investigators should not refer to weight loss as an endpoint criterion if they are not routinely weighing animals.

Investigators should be aware that weight loss in excess of 10% in a growing animal indicates more severe stress than a comparable weight loss in an adult animal, and it should be brought to the attention of the veterinary staff.

This document is a modification of a UINC Chapel Hill document.