Each animal shall be observed at least once a day to check for changes in body weight (BW), signs of pain or postoperative complications. The minimum duration of the postoperative monitoring is described in the approved protocol, but monitoring should not be discontinued until the animal is fully recovered (i.e., returned to the preoperative body weight). Document each observation and analgesic treatment in this log by placing a checkmark (normal appearance and behavior, or analgesic administered), an “X” (abnormal appearance or behavior), or N/A (analgesic not administered) in the corresponding box. Report any abnormal or unusual postoperative findings or complications by placing a pink “Sick Animal” card on the cage and notifying the veterinarian immediately.

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| Postoperative Analgesic(s): | Dose (mg/kg), Route of Admin, Dosing Interval & Duration: |
| Protocol #: | Minimum Duration of Postoperative Monitoring (# days): |

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| Animal ID # | Day 0 | Postoperative Day 1 (date & initials) | | | | Postoperative Day 2 (date & initials) | | | | Postoperative Day 3 (date & initials) | | | | Postoperative Day 4 (date & initials) | | | |
| BW (g) | Animal  (√ or X) | Wound  (√ or X) | Analgesic  (√ or N/A) | BW (g) | Animal  (√ or X) | Wound  (√ or X) | Analgesic  (√ or N/A) | BW (g) | Animal  (√ or X) | Wound  (√ or X) | Analgesic  (√ or N/A) | BW (g) | Animal  (√ or X) | Wound  (√ or X) | Analgesic  (√ or N/A) | BW (g) |
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The response of animals to pain, and hence any clinical or behavioral signs of pain, will vary depending on the animal species and the surgical procedure. The best way to identify signs of pain is to closely observe the appearance and behavior of the animal prior to surgery, and note any changes after surgery. The following are several signs associated with pain or distress. **If any of these signs are observed, notify the veterinarian.**

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| **Sign** | **Explanation** |
| Guarding | The animal alters its posture to avoid moving or causing contact to a body part, or to avoid the handling of that body area. |
| Abnormal appearance | Different species show different changes in their external appearance, but obvious lack of grooming or hair standing up (piloerection), changed or hunched posture or arched back, and a changed profile of the body are all observable signs of pain or distress. Persistent orbital tightening (squinting) is another abnormal appearance commonly associated with pain in laboratory rats and mice (i.e., Rodent Grimace response) |
| Decreased activity | Animals in pain or distress will demonstrate little or no spontaneous movement. If the animal is also reluctant to move even when disturbed, this is a sign of increased severity of pain or distress. For example, rats that are in pain or distress will be reluctant to rise on their hind limbs and explore the outside of the cage when the lid of the cage is removed. |
| Altered behavior | Normal behaviors will be absent if the animal is in pain or distress. Mice in pain or distress may show decreased or no nest building behavior. Rats in pain or distress may show decreased foraging, and little to no interest in gnawing enrichment. |
| Vocalization | A rat in pain or distress may vocalize when approached or handled or when a specific body area is touched or palpated. It may also vocalize when moving to avoid being handled. |
| Mutilation | A rodent in pain, especially a mouse, may lick, bite, scratch, shake, or rub the painful area. |
| Inappetance | A rodent in pain or distress will frequently stop eating and drinking, or markedly reduce their intake, resulting in dehydration (skin tenting, sunken eyes) and rapid weight loss. Any animal that is dehydrated or experiences a weight loss during the recovery period that is >10% of the preoperative body weight should be reported to the veterinarian. Any animal losing ≥15% of their body weight should be euthanized for humane reasons. |