STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #114

RABBIT ANESTHESIA

1. PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes methods for anesthetizing rabbits.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Principal Investigators (PIs) and their research staff, veterinary care staff.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. Perform a thorough physical exam and obtain an accurate weight.

3.2. Withhold food, not water, for a short period of time (1–2 hours) prior to anesthesia.

3.3. Keep animals warm by providing a heat source and monitoring temperature until the animal has recovered from anesthesia. Care should be taken to not overheat or burn the animals.

3.4. Never leave an anesthetized animal unattended.

3.5. Rabbits can be anesthetized with either inhalant gas or injectable drugs. The use of endotracheal intubations and inhalant gases is the preferred method of anesthesia whenever possible.

4. MATERIALS

4.1. Material or equipment to provide or conserve body heat (e.g. heating disc or pad, warm-water circulating pad

2020.12.07	5.3.1. To provide IV fluid therapy and venous access during surgery anesthesia
2020.12.07	5.3.2. It is recommended to apply EMLA cream and cover with plastic cling wrap (e.g. Saran® wrap) over the venipuncture site at least 15 minutes prior to placing the catheter. Observe the animal to prevent removing or swallowing of the plastic.
2020.12.07	5.4. Sedation: [Moved Ketamine-XylazineAcepromazine and KetamineMidazolam to this section from 5.5]
2020.12.07	5.5. Injectable anesthesia Induction prior to inhalant anesthesia to facilitate intubation: 5.5.1. Can be used alone for short, non-invasive procedures. [Moved KetamineXylazineAcepromazine and KetamineMidazolam to section 5.4]
2020.12.07	5.6.1. It is recommended to pre-oxygenate for 1 to 5 minutes with a tight fitted mask with 100% oxygen to avoid apnea during induction and intubation.
2020.12.07	5.6.3. Cuffed endotracheal tubes are preferred for animals weighing over 2 kg as they reduce the possibility of aspiration of saliva or stomach contents.
2020.12.07	5.7.1. Induction (if injectable anesthetics cannot be used; the animal should be premedicated to reduce stress of induction)
2020.12.07	5.7.3.2. Monitor temperature at end of surgery and warm animal up if necessary to speed up recovery time. 5.7.3.3. Deflate endotracheal cuff and stay close to the animal as long as the animal is intubated. 5.7.3.5. Remove IV catheter prior to placing the animal back in its cage.
2021.01.13	3.2. Withhold food, not water, for a short period of time (1-2 hours) prior to anesthesia.
2021.01.13	3.3. Keep animals warm by providing a heat source and monitoring temperature until the animal has recovered from anesthesia. Care should be taken to not overheat or burn the animals.
2021.01.13	3.5. Rabbits can be anesthetized with either inhalant gas or injectable drugs. The use of endotracheal intubations and inhalant gases is the preferred method of anesthesia whenever possible.
2021.01.13	5.4.1. Used for short periods of restraint for non-painful procedures (e.g., blood collection) or prior to induction of gas anesthesia.
2021.01.13	5.6.4.5. Spray the larynx with 2% xylocaine and wait 1 minute to help decrease laryngospasm (spasmodic closing and opening of the glottis).
2021.01.13	5.7.2.1 Use a tight-fitting mask connected to the Bain circuit or intubate the rabbit.
2021.01.13	5.7.2.3. Monitor parameters (heart rate, oxygen saturation, respiration rate, temperature) every 5 minutes.