

USDA Pain Categories

B. Animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery, but not yet used for such purposes

C. Procedures involving no pain or distress or requiring no use of pain relieving drugs. Euthanasia is performed in accordance with the recommendations of the AVMA report on Euthanasia. These are routine procedures such as blood sampling, tattooing, and injections. Polyclonal antibody production and procedures involving administration of an anesthetic, analgesic or tranquilizing drug to an animal for short term restraint purposes to perform a procedure that involves no pain or distress may be considered level C.

D. Alleviated pain. Procedures involving pain or distress for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs were given. In addition, terminal surgical procedures in which the animals are euthanized before recovering from anesthesia are considered level D.

E. Unalleviated pain. Procedures involving pain or distress but for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesics, or tranquilizing drugs would have affected the procedures, results, or interpretations of the results. An explanation of these procedures and reasons why appropriate drugs were not used must be justified in the Animal Care and Use Protocol.