• **Policy for Criteria for Premature Euthanasia and Humane Endpoints**
  o Review the Humane Endpoints policy.

• **Humane Endpoint:**
  o The humane endpoint is the point at which pain or distress in an animal is prevented, terminated, or relieved.
    ▪ The humane endpoint is not the same as the predetermined experimental endpoint.
    ▪ The humane endpoint **may or may not** be the result of experimental procedures.
  o Animals that become ill, debilitated, or experience unrelieved pain or distress must be treated or immediately euthanized.
    ▪ If the PI is unavailable, the AV or designee has the authority to use appropriate treatment measures including euthanasia if necessary.
  o Exceptions to humane endpoints or withholding pain relief must be specifically reviewed and approved by the IACUC.

• **Humane Endpoint Criteria:**
  o Specific criteria for physical conditions listed in the policy provide predetermined endpoints in which euthanasia is required.
    ▪ Exceptions to these specific conditions must be justified, reviewed, and approved by the IACUC prior to the onset of these conditions.

• **Death as an Endpoint:**
  o Some studies require moribundity or death as an experimental endpoint.
  o The continuation of an experiment to the point where an animal dies without the benefit of intervention or euthanasia is not acceptable without strong scientific justification reviewed and approved by the IACUC.

• **IACUC Application – Addressing Potential Pain, Discomfort, and/or Distress and Humane Endpoints:**
  o In the application you must describe and address all potentially painful or distressful conditions that could affect an animal as a result of the experiment.
    ▪ What is the potentially painful or distressful experimental condition?
      A. **Identify potentially painful, distressful procedures/conditions.** Check and list all specific procedures, surgeries, conditions, and/or phenotypic attributes that may result in animals experiencing **more than momentary** slight pain, discomfort, or distress.
        - Tumor Development:
        - Phenotypic Alteration:
        - Surgical Procedure:
        - Nonsurgical Procedure:
        - Ionizing Radiation:
        - Induced Disease:
        - Spontaneous Disease:
        - Toxin Exposure:
        - Other:
Is there an alternative to refine these procedures and reduce painful or distressful conditions?

B. Search for alternatives to potentially painful procedures.
   Note: Suggested Databases can be found on the UNMC Library's Animal Models in Research: Searching for Alternatives Databases and many of these are available free or are licensed by UNMC.

What physical symptoms may the animals exhibit as a result of experimental conditions?

C. Animal Health consequences. Describe all clinical signs and symptoms that may present in the animals as a result of protocol procedures, surgeries, agents, disease processes, genetic alterations, etc. Include onset, duration and severity of signs/symptoms as applicable.

In the application you must describe the methods that will be used to monitor the animals for potentially painful or distressful conditions both experimentally induced and from natural/other causes.

How will you monitor animal’s health?

Monitoring Parameters. Select parameters from the list below that will be used to detect pain, distress, or discomfort. Monitoring of five or more parameters is recommended.

How often will you check on the animals to ensure they are not experiencing any undue pain or distress as a result of the experiment or from natural/other causes?

Frequency/Duration of Monitoring. What is the frequency (specified times per day) and duration (number of days) over which monitoring of the animals will be performed by the investigators/technicians? Note: The IACUC expects that all animals will be monitored at appropriate intervals that are dictated by the nature of the protocol, as well as the degree of potential pain, the likely duration of the pain and possible complications.

a. Frequency (specified times per day):
   b. Duration (number of days):

If an animal is experiencing pain or distress as a result of the experiment or from natural/other causes how will you treat them?

Management Plan: If signs of pain, distress and/or discomfort are detected, describe the management plan to relieve pain, distress and/or discomfort in the animals.

☐ Animals will be immediately euthanized.
☐ Other. Describe:
☐ Pain relief drugs will be given. Indicate the drugs to be given.

Will you follow the criteria set forth in the Policy for Criteria for Premature Euthanasia and Humane Endpoints? NOTE: If not, this is where you must justify why, and state what specific criteria will require an exception.

Premature Euthanasia/Humane Endpoints. Animals that are experiencing unrelieved pain or distress prior to the defined experimental endpoints as described in Section IV-Project Design must be humanely euthanized, unless doing so would interfere with, or compromise, the scientific goals of the experiment.

Will you follow the Policy for Criteria for Premature Euthanasia-Humane Endpoints?
☐ Yes All personnel will comply with the policy.
☐ No I am requesting an exception/s to the policy.

Indicate which of the criteria that you are requesting an exception for:
Provide scientific justification for the requested exception:
What supportive care will be given to minimize discomfort, distress, or pain?
State endpoint for euthanasia: