University of Cincinnati
Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

Anesthesia Requirement for Retro-orbital Blood Collection of Rodents

Current state-of-the-art veterinary medical practice is in agreement with the requirement to make anesthesia mandatory for rodents undergoing retro-orbital blood collection, as this procedure is considered inhumane unless the rodents are under surgical-level anesthesia. Therefore, the University of Cincinnati Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee requires that all rodents be anesthetized prior to the collection of blood by the retro-orbital bleeding technique.