Instructions: List the postoperative analgesic treatment(s) that will be administered to the animal(s). Each animal should be observed at least once a day for four days after surgery to check for changes in body weight (BW), signs of pain or other postoperative complications. 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Post-operative Analgesic(s): | Dose (mg/kg), Route of Admin,, Dosing Interval & Duration | Person(s) Providing Postop Care |
|  |  |  |
| 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) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Postoperative Nursing Care: For animals exhibiting postoperative complications, place a pink “Sick Animal” card on the cage indicating the complication and notify the veterinarian immediately. Document the day during which the complication was first observed and indicate their nursing care as described in your protocol or as recommended by the veterinarian or ARC staff in the table below. Specify the nursing care that was provided, such as supplemental food/fluids or warming (heating pad), in the corresponding box (i.e. “Nursing Care”). Indicate also the animal’s responsiveness to the nursing care with a checkmark if the animal is responsive or an “X” if the animal’s condition persists or worsens. In these latter cases, the veterinarian should be contacted immediately for a second consultation regarding nursing care.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Animal ID # | Postoperative Day 1Date & Initials: | Postoperative Day 2Date & Initials: | Postoperative Day 3Date & Initials: | Postoperative Day 4Date & Initials: |
| Nursing Care Provided | Response(√ or X) | Nursing Care Provided | Response (√ or X) | Nursing Care Provided | Response(√ or X) | Nursing Care Provided | Response(√ or X) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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 a number of signs associated with persistent pain.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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. 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 may remain immobile, or be reluctant to stand or move even when disturbed. Rats that are in pain may 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 | Animals may exhibit restlessness (e.g., lying down and getting up, shifting weight, circling, or pacing) or disturbed sleeping patterns. Animals in pain may also show altered social interactions with others in their group. Mice may show decreased nest building behavior. |
| Vocalization | An animal 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 | Animals may lick, bite, scratch, shake, or rub a painful area. |
| Inappetance | Animals in pain frequently stop eating and drinking, or markedly reduce their intake, resulting in rapid weight loss. |