ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

APPENDIX 1: HT MODIFIED PAIN SCORING – RABBITS

HT composite pain score – Rabbits

Section 1 – Behavioural Assessment.
Observe the animal for a two minute period. For each behaviour observed during this period add one (1) to the total score.

| Pain Behaviour | Description                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Twitching      | Rapid movement of fur on the back         |
| Hunching       | Body jerking upwards for no apparent reason |
| Wincing        | Rapid movement backwards in a rocking motion, eye closing & swallowing |
| Staggering     | Partial loss of balance                   |
| Falling        | Complete loss of balance                  |
| Pressing       | Pressing wound to a surface               |
| Pain           | Undefined behaviour believed to indicate pain |
| Arching        | Arching of the back upwards               |
| Wringing       | Contraction of the oblique flank muscles.  |

Total Score _____

Section 2 – Ophthalmic Assessment (only complete for patients undergoing ocular procedures)

Look at the affected eye[s]. Do you see...?

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Nothing abnormal      | 0  |
| Excursive blinking    | 1  |
| Blepharospasm         | 2  |
| Rubbing of the eye    | 3  |
| Blepharospasm, lacrimation & rubbing of the eye | 4 |

Total Score _____ / 4

Give the prescribed rescue analgesia if the score is 2/4 or more for ophthalmology animals.
Section 2 – Facial Assessment.

For each following pictures score the animal 0 – 3 as per the instructions attached to the images.

| Nostril shape |
|---------------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Not Present | Moderately Present | Obviously Present |
| • Nostrils (nares) are drawn vertically forming a "V" rather than "U" shape |
| • Nose tip is moved down towards the chin |

| Orbital Tightening |
|-------------------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Not Present | Moderately Present | Obviously Present |
| • Closing of the eyelid (narrowing of orbital area) |
| • A wrinkle may be visible around the eye |
Cheek Flattening

| 0 | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| Not Present | Moderately Present | Obviously Present |

- Flattening of the cheeks. When ‘obviously present’, cheeks have a sunken look.
- The face becomes more angular and less rounded.

Whisker Change & Position

| 0 | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| Not Present | Moderately Present | Obviously Present |

- Whiskers are pushed away from the face to ‘stand on end’.
- Whiskers stiffen and lose their natural, downward curve.
- Whiskers increasingly point in the same direction. When ‘obviously present’, whiskers move downwards.
Total score ____ / 10.

Record pain scores for each section on the patient monitoring sheet.

If animals reach the predefined cut off score as set on their monitoring sheet or are suspected to be in pain contact the LAS Veterinarian for guidance.

References.

Keating SCJ et al (2012) Evaluation of EMLA cream for preventing pain during tattooing of rabbits: Changes in physiological, behavioural and facial expression responses. PLOS ONE 7(9): e44437. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0044437

Leach et al, Behavioural effects of ovariohysterectomy and oral administration of meloxicam in laboratory housed rabbits, Research in Veterinary Science 87 (2009) 336–347.

References and Acknowledgements

Reid J et al (2007) Development of the short-form Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale (CMPS-SF) and derivation of an analgesic intervention score, Animal Welfare, 16(S): 97-104.
Keating SCJ et al (2012) Evaluation of EMLA cream for preventing pain during tattooing of rabbits: Changes in physiological, behavioural and facial expression responses. *PLOS ONE* 7(9): e44437. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0044437

Leach et al, Behavioural effects of ovariohysterectomy and oral administration of meloxicam in laboratory housed rabbits, *Research in Veterinary Science* 87 (2009) 336–347.

Clarke KW, Trim CM (2014) *Veterinary Anaesthesia*, 11th Edition. Elsevier B.V., Amsterdam.

*(Provide references used to develop the SOP or to provide precedence for its use)*