**SCORE SHEET FOR SCORING AGED MICE**

**Experimental/ Treatment Group:**

**Date: Time**: **AEC Number:** **Name of person scoring**:

**Name of Supervisor/Chief Investigator: Contact Telephone Number:**  **After Hours:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicators | Scoring of independent variables: | |  | | --- | | Score of each animal in group | | | | | | |
| **Date** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **General Health**  Eating  Locomotion  Behaviour: | 1. drinking and eating well 2. change in eating or drinking habit 3. inappetance. 4. not eating/drinking, severely dehydrated/, vaginal or rectal prolapse, excessively wet bedding 5. walking normally 6. limping, stiffness 7. swollen limbs 8. severely restricted mobility 9. normal 10. away from littermates 11. huddled in corner, circling behaviour, head tilt 12. severe distress/laboured breathing or panting |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Appearance | 0. Normal  1. ruffled fur  2. animal appears depressed , hunched, reluctant to move  3. animal appears severely depressed, swollen peritoneum |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Weight loss** | 1. normal 2. 5 – 9% 3. 10-14% 4. ≥15% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Score** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

IMPORTANT: any animals euthanized or found dead – note must be taken of strain, ID, age, sex and any relevant information (i.e.: autopsy results) and sent to researcher /contact via email.

**Aged mice will generally look rougher than the other mice, their coats won’t be as smooth and may be sparser and grey, they may be blind or have cataracts, they will also not be as active or agile as the younger mice. These are normal signs and are not cause for euthanizing, however monitoring will be needed to ensure they don’t develop more severe symptoms. Some ailments (such as overgrown teeth, prolapses etc.) can be treated, permission *must* be given by researcher and consulting veterinarian before commencing. Preventative treatments include providing wet mash in the box for easier consumption, trimming of teeth if they appear overgrown and treatment of prolapses with sugar solution.**

###### **For Total Scores**

0 = normal: no action **\*\*\* *A score of 3 in any one category: euthanase***

1-4 = moderate changes: should be monitored daily

5-9 = significant changes: monitor twice daily

>10 = euthanase

**Signature of person scoring:**

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