Aquatic Animal Humane Endpoint Template

**Health conditions that require veterinary care may necessitate the removal of the animal from the study or teaching use. A similar statement should be included in the IACUC protocol.**

NOTE: THE LIST OF OBSERVATIONS IS NOT COMPLETE. OTHER OBSERVATIONS CAN APPEAR. **A TOTAL SCORE OF 4 IS HUMANE ENDPOINT CRITERIA.** Any changes to template must be in **bold** font.

| **Assessment parameter** | **Score** | **EXAMPLES of observations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 0 | Alert, reacts to the surroundings |
| General condition | 1 | Less active, less reactive to the surroundings |
|  | 4 | Very limited or no voluntary movement even if stimulated |
|  | 0 | Normal movements, occupying normal place in water column |
| Movements | 1 | Mild/intermittent buoyancy disruption, able to maintain fairly normal swim pattern, may spend more time at bottom of tank |
|  | 4 | Marked incoordination, buoyancy not maintained, circling |
|  | 0 | Normal body posture and body form |
| Body posture and body form | 1 | Mild scoliosis or deformity, mild-moderate abdominal distension |
|  | 4 | Markedly swollen abdomen, severe deformity, protruding eyes |
|  |

|  | 0 | Skin/scales/fins appear intact without signs of injuries |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Skin/Scales/Fins | 1 | Scale loss/discoloration, missing operculum, small mass, mild erythema, partially deformed or missing fins |
|  | 4 | Ulcerations, lesions, haemorrhage, masses affecting behavior or development, severe erythema, fins deteriorating |
|  | 0 | Well-conditioned or over-conditioned (BCS 3-4)\*, weight loss < 5 % compared to weight prior to procedure, controls, or normal growth curve |
| Body condition score (BCS)\* and bodyweight | 1 | Underconditioned or obese (BCS 2 or 5), weight loss 5-20 % compared to weight prior to procedure, controls, or normal growth curve |
|  | 4 | Severely underconditioned (BCS 1), weight loss > 20 % compared to weight prior to procedure, controls, or normal growth curve |
|  | 0 | Normal breathing |
| Breathing | 1 | Increased respiratory frequency at rest without affecting other parameters, surface breathing |
|  | 4 | Respiratory distress, excessive operculum movement |
|  | 0 |  |
| Other study-specific parameters (describe and add more boxes as needed) | 1 |  |
|  | 4 |  |