Introduction
The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) maintains oversight review for federally mandated rules and regulations with regard to animal research, ethics, misconduct and biomedical research for the University of Colorado Denver (UC Denver).

Policy Statement
This policy is intended to provide information on the requirements of maximum allowable weight loss and to establish procedures to be followed.

- The maximum allowable weight loss for any animal involved in a research or teaching protocol is 15% of the pre-procedure body weight in the non-obese animal (35% in the obese animal).
  - Adult animals: the maximum weight loss would be a decrease from the animal's pre-procedure weight.
  - Immature animals: the maximum weight loss is a deviation of 15% from recognized growth curves or age matched control animals.
  - Caloric restriction studies resulting in more severe growth restriction are allowable but must be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- An anticipated weight loss of greater than 15% requires an "E" protocol designation. A scientific justification for excessive weight loss will also be required.
- All protocols involving excessive weight loss will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and only with adequate scientific justification.

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency (e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification may affect continuous funding of your animal-related research. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at UC Denver might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.