Body Condition Scoring (BCS):

The scorer simply picks up a mouse at the base of the tail, and notes its body condition by passing a finger over the sacroiliac bones. Body condition is typically scored on a scale of 1-5 as described below:

1. Muscle wasting is advanced, fat deposits are absent, and bones are very prominent.
2. Bones are prominent. This suggests the mouse is becoming thin and its health is declining. Further decline of condition would warrant euthanasia.
3. Bones are palpable but not prominent. This is an optimal condition.
4. The mouse is well fleshed and bones are barely felt.
5. The mouse is obese and bones cannot be felt.

Reference:


Weight Loss:

A weight-loss of 10-15% within few days (acutely) that cannot be corrected by fluid therapy and is due to loss of lean body mass. An overall weight-loss of 20% or BCS of <1.5 is also an indication for euthanasia.

Note: BSC should be used when body weight may not accurately reflect the mouse’s condition (in cases of tumors, pregnancy and ascites, juvenile rodents ≤ 50 days).

References:


Any exceptions to the above policy must have IACUC and Veterinary approval.