

University of Vermont  
Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee  
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Previously Toe Clipping Policy, Version 1.2

### **Animal Identification Methods**

The regulations contained in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* stress the importance of proper animal identification in sound research and humane animal care. The Guide, as well as a number of other sources, lists many acceptable identification methods for most common laboratory animal species.

The following are examples of acceptable methods for animal identification and must be described within the IACUC protocol:

- Ear punching
- Ear tags
- Microchips
- Tattooing (subcutaneous injection or intradermal inoculation)
- Freeze branding (for amphibians).

Toe clipping, which involves removal of phalangeal (toe) bones of one toe on one or more limbs, is not an acceptable method of identification and is not allowed.