

Study-Start Checklist for Catheterization Programs

Use this checklist before your first animal to identify gaps that may affect catheter patency, study quality, or animal welfare.

1. Study Design & Planning

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Procedure objectives are clearly defined | ☐ Humane endpoints and removal criteria are documented |
| ☐ Route of administration aligns with study endpoints | ☐ Catheter maintenance requirements have been incorporated into the protocol |
| ☐ Expected catheter dwell time has been established | ☐ Study exclusions are predefined |
| ☐ Catheter material has been reviewed for compound and vehicle compatibility | |

2. Surgical Readiness

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Surgeon competency confirmed | ☐ Analgesia protocol approved |
| ☐ Team roles assigned | ☐ Anesthesia equipment checked |
| ☐ Sterile instruments available | ☐ Recovery cage prepared before induction |
| ☐ Appropriate catheter systems verified | ☐ Emergency supplies available |
| ☐ Heat support prepared | |

3. Recovery & Animal Monitoring

- ☐ Recovery responsibilities assigned
- ☐ Monitoring intervals documented
- ☐ Thermal support available
- ☐ Pain assessment criteria established
- ☐ Food and hydration support prepared
- ☐ Escalation pathway confirmed
- ☐ Veterinary contact identified

Things to Watch For:

- ✓ Reduced grooming
- ✓ Hunched posture
- ✓ Reduced food intake
- ✓ Poor mobility
- ✓ Incision concerns
- ✓ Catheter site abnormalities

4. Catheter Maintenance

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Flush schedule defined | ☐ Sterile access supplies available |
| ☐ Lock solution selected | ☐ Positive-pressure technique defined (where applicable) |
| ☐ Dead volumes calculated | |
| ☐ Patency assessment method standardized | ☐ Catheter access recorded consistently |



Common Warning Signs:

Resistance during access, no blood return, leakage, swelling, or unexpected loss of patency.

5. Documentation

Can every team member record the following information?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Animal ID | ☐ Lock solution |
| ☐ Procedure details | ☐ Operator |
| ☐ Catheter type | ☐ Access dates |
| ☐ Lot number | ☐ Complications |
| ☐ Flush volumes | ☐ Corrective actions |

6. Before the First Animal

Final Readiness Check

Can every team member clearly explain:

- ☐ Their role?
- ☐ Recovery expectations?
- ☐ Escalation procedures?
- ☐ Maintenance schedule?
- ☐ Documentation requirements?

Readiness Score Card:

- **24 - 30 checks:** Ready to proceed
- **18 - 23 checks:** Review before study start
- **Below 18:** Identify & address gaps before beginning