

### **Animal care and use statement**

The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain and discomfort to the animals. The animals were acclimatized to laboratory conditions ( $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 12h/12h light/dark,  $65\% \pm 10\%$  humidity, fed with tap water and food) for one week prior to experiment. The animals were anesthetized with 30 mg/kg intravenous pentobarbital sodium. All animals were euthanized by pentobarbital sodium overdose (intravenous injection) for tissue collection.

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