**Editorial comments response:**  
  
  
1. Please take this opportunity to thoroughly proofread the manuscript to ensure that there are no spelling or grammar issues. AR: Done  
2. Please use standard SI unit symbols and prefixes such as µL, mL, L, g, m, etc., and h, min, s for time units. AR: Done  
3. Please highlight 2.75 pages or less of the Protocol steps (including headings and spacing) in yellow that identifies the essential steps of the protocol for the video. AR: Done  
4. Please do not highlight notes for filming. AR: Removed  
5. Please specify the use of vet ointment on eyes to prevent dryness while under anesthesia. AR: Already on the text, line: 117. Added as well to the list of materials.  
6. For survival strategies, discuss post-surgical treatment of animal, including recovery conditions and treatment for post-surgical pain. AR: the post-surgical treatment is already discussed in Protocol 4; recovery discussion added in line 307-309; post-surigcal pain treatment is explained in 107-109.  
7. Discuss maintenance of sterile conditions during survival surgery. AR: Done, line 100-101  
8. Please specify that the animal is not left unattended until it has regained sufficient consciousness to maintain sternal recumbency. AR: Added in line 149-150.  
9. Please specify that the animal that has undergone surgery is not returned to the company of other animals until fully recovered. AR: Stated in line 150-151.  
10. Please do not highlight any steps describing euthanasia or anesthesia. AR: Noted   
11. Please split some long steps into two or more sub-steps so that each step contains only 2-3 actions and is less than 4 lines. AR: Done  
12. Step 4.1: Please ensure that all text is written in imperative tense. AR: changed, line 186  
13. 4.3: Please ensure that all text is written in imperative tense. AR: changed, line 197  
14. 4.5.1-4.5.3: Please ensure that all text is written in imperative tense. AR: changed, line 217, 221, 225.  
15. 5.1: Please ensure that all text is written in imperative tense. AR: changed, line 232 and 237  
16. Figure 2: Please provide a short description of the figure in addition the title in Figure Legend. AR: Done, line 285-288