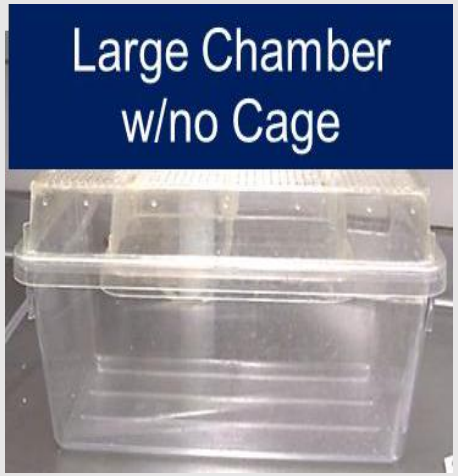
How to Use DLAR's CO_2 Euthanasia Chambers

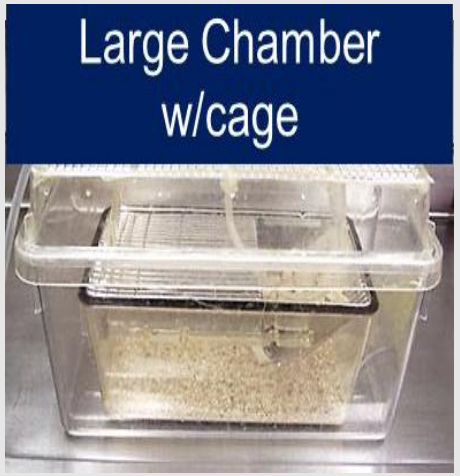
Division of Laboratory Animal Resources

Current as of 10-Nov-2026

Euthanasia of Rodents Using Carbon Dioxide:

Animals from different cages should not be mixed for euthanasia.





You must remain with the animal continuously from the start of the procedure until death is confirmed.

Steps for Using Carbon Dioxide for Euthanasia (A)

1. **Ensure the euthanasia chamber is free of CO_2:** Turn the chamber upside down to allow the removal of residual CO_2.

2. **Place animals in euthanasia chamber:**

- Mice: Place the entire bottom portion of the home cage, including the mice and bedding, into the euthanasia chamber with or without the wire bar.
- Rats: Remove the rat(s) from their home cage and place them directly into the large euthanasia chamber.

3. **Place top securely on chamber**

Steps for Using Carbon Dioxide for Euthanasia (B)

4. Turn CO_2 tank on



5. For DLAR euthanasia chambers adjust flow meter to 10.5-12 L/min





Steps for Using Carbon Dioxide for Euthanasia (C):

6. Maintain gas flow for at least 1 minute after respiratory arrest



7. Turn off the CO_2 source

8. Remove animals from the chamber

Steps for Using Carbon Dioxide for Euthanasia (D):

9. Immediately perform a secondary euthanasia method to ensure death.

10. Place the carcass in labeled leak-proof bag or container.

- Label the body bags with either PI name or protocol #, date, and your initials

11. Dispose of the carcass in the morgue/necropsy freezer.