

IACUC POLICY: Euthanasia of Vertebrate Animals

Policy: Methods applied for euthanasia of animals used in research, teaching, or testing must follow the standards described in the most current version of the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. Exceptions must be approved by the IACUC and supported by strong rationale.

All personnel conducting euthanasia must be trained and familiar with the procedure(s) used. The procedures used should minimize animal pain and distress to the extent possible.

Blades used for euthanasia via decapitation, such as guillotines or shears, must be kept in working order, free of rust, visible nicks or other damage to the cutting edge, with no perceptible binding or resistance and serviced regularly. In this regard, guillotines and other similar equipment used for euthanasia must be sharpened or replaced annually or more frequently based on use. PIs are required to establish and maintain a service log to document testing of sharpness and any service to the equipment.

Please refer to the [Office of the Attending Veterinarian Guidelines for Euthanasia of Research Animals](#) document for additional details.

Approved and Adopted by the
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
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