

Purdue University Laboratory Animal Program Standards of Care

Title: Euthanasia & Carcass Disposal

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the policies, regulations and guidelines that animal units must follow when euthanizing animals and disposing of carcasses.

II. Policy:

All animal units must follow the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia and IACUC policy when euthanizing animals. Exemptions to these policies must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and/or the Campus Attending Veterinarian. Carcass disposal must be in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. Persons performing certain types of euthanasia will need to be trained and certified in accordance with the IACUC Policy.

Procedure:

Euthanasia

Refer to the most current AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia for approved euthanasia methods.

Refer to the most current IACUC policy for euthanasia on the IACUC website.

The attending veterinarian has a specific standard of care policy for euthanasia of different types of animals to provide succinct recommendations and references based on approved AVMA methods

Carcass Disposal:

Animal carcasses must be properly disposed of. Animal carcasses must never be placed in the regular trash. Animals experimentally treated with hazardous materials must be disposed of accordingly to regulations and guidelines for the agent used. Some untreated wild type rodents and other animal carcasses are used as food for predator species (for example, raptors or snakes). Transgenic and/or genetically modified animals must not be used as food for other animals. The method of euthanasia must be compatible for use as food stuff. For example, animals euthanized with a barbiturate overdose should not be used as food for other animals.