
EUTHANASIA GUIDELINES

As excerpted from the 2013 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia, “Euthanasia is the act of inducing humane death in an animal. It is our responsibility as veterinarians and human beings to ensure that if an animal’s life is to be taken, it is done with the highest degree of respect, and with an emphasis on making the death as painless and distress free as possible. Euthanasia techniques should result in rapid loss of consciousness followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest and the ultimate loss of brain function. In addition, the technique should minimize distress and anxiety experienced by the animal prior to loss of consciousness”.

The 2013 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia establishes the guidelines for euthanasia in a research or teaching setting. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals notes that unless a deviation is justified for scientific or medical reasons, and the deviation approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (i.e., Purdue’s PACUC), methods of euthanasia should be consistent with the 2013 Report. The 2013 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia provides a comprehensive review of appropriate agents and methods of choice and should be consulted for species-specific information. See https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Euthanasia-Guidelines.aspx?utm_source=prettyurl&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=redirect&utm_keyword=is-sue-animal_welfare-euthanasia-pdf

For a discussion of the issues of when an animal should be euthanized, we recommend reviewing the PACUC Guideline on “Humane Endpoints for Research and Teaching Animals.” <http://www.purdue.edu/research/research-compliance/regulatory/care-use-of-animals/policies-guidelines.php>

Should you find any link unavailable, require other assistance in selecting suitable methods or need training with techniques or drugs with which you are not familiar, the LAP veterinary staff is available for consultation at 494-9163. A copy of the 2013 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia can also be obtained by contacting the Laboratory Animal Program.