

**SEATTLE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OPERATING POLICIES / PROCEDURES**

DEPARTMENT:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
POLICY NUMBER:	IACUC-022
REPLACES:	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 10, 2005
REVISION DATE:	March 10, 2011
POSTED FROM:	

TITLE: Euthanasia

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a uniform method of assessment, by the IACUC, of euthanasia.

DEFINITION: Euthanasia: "The act of inducing humane death in an animal."

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

- 022-1 All animals will be acquired lawfully.
- 022-2 Unless deviation is justified by substantial scientific or medical reasons, methods should be consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines on Euthanasia (June 2007 or later editions).
- 022-3 Criteria to be considered when evaluating the appropriateness of euthanasia methods include:
 - 022-3.1 Ability to induce loss of consciousness and death with no, or momentary pain, distress or anxiety;
 - 022-3.2 Reliability and irreversibility of method;
 - 022-3.3 Time required to induce unconsciousness;
 - 022-3.4 Species and age limitations;
 - 022-3.5 Compatibility with research objectives;

- 022-3.6 Safety of procedure, and;
- 022-3.7 Emotional effects on personnel.
- 022-4 Protocols must include specific, quantitative criteria for initiating euthanasia. Such animal monitoring criteria might include physical and/or behavioral deficits such as an inability to: eat, drink, and/or ambulate. Tumor size, and weight loss are additional criteria that will enable a prompt and reliable decision to be made by the Office of Animal Care (OAC) staff, the Attending Veterinarian (AV), and the investigator to ensure that the end point is humane and the objective of the protocol achieved.
- 022-5 Animal euthanasia will be carried out in a manner that avoids distress. In some cases, vocalization and/or release of pheromones occur during induction of unconsciousness. Other animals should not be present when euthanasia is performed.
- 022-6 The selection of specific agents and methods of euthanasia will depend on the species involved and the objectives of the protocol. Generally, barbiturate overdose, anesthetic overdose, or carbon dioxide (CO₂) overdose are preferable to physical methods such as cervical dislocation or decapitation. However, scientific considerations may preclude the use of chemical agents for some protocols.
- 022-7 All methods of euthanasia will be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
- 022-8 It is essential that euthanasia be performed by personnel who are skilled in methods for the species in question and that it is performed in a professional and compassionate manner. Death should be confirmed by personnel who are able to recognize cessation of vital signs to ensure irreversibility of the procedure.

REFERENCES

National Research Council, "The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals". National Academy Press; Washington DC. 1996.

AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia, June 2007.

Submitting Office: Office of Institutional Assurances

Approved by:

\s\ Anne Clancy, IACUC Chairperson, 4/20/2011

\s\ William R. Morton, VMD, Attending Veterinarian, 4/20/2011

\s\ Mason Craig Bailey, Manager/Office of Animal Care, 4/19/2011