

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Policy on the Maintenance of Euthanasia Equipment

Guillotines

Guillotines and other equipment (scissors with neonates) used for decapitation must be cleaned regularly between uses. Subsequently, the equipment must be sharpened and honed so that a piece of paper is cut cleanly when the device is tested. Honing and sharpening is conducted on this equipment after each use. Mineral oil should be applied after sharpening to prevent corrosion. It is the responsibility of the PI to maintain the guillotine if used in the research laboratory and not in the common laboratory animal facility space.

CO₂ Chambers

CO₂ chambers must be inspected regularly to ensure that they are airtight. Personnel who use CO₂ as the preferred method of euthanasia must be trained in the cessation of vital signs. Death is usually ensured by using a second method such as cervical dislocation while the animal is in a state of narcosis. It is the responsibility of the PI to maintain the CO₂ chamber if used in the research laboratory and not in the common laboratory animal facility space.

Schermer Captive Bolt Stunners

Stunners must be completely disassembled and cleaned after each use for cleaning and inspection. Upon inspection, any worn or damaged parts should be replaced. It is the responsibility of the PI to maintain the stunners if used in the research laboratory and not in the common laboratory animal facility space.

Best and Donovan Electrical Stunners

Stunners must be cleaned and visually inspected following each use. When they show signs of becoming dirty or worn, University Facilities division employees or a contracted firm disassemble and rebuild them by replacing the electrical connections, cleaning the electrical probes and resealing the entire device to protect against water damage. It is the responsibility of the PI to maintain the stunners if used in the research laboratory and not in the common laboratory animal facility space.

ADOPTED: December 18, 2012

REAFFIRMED: October 4, 2021