

EUTHANASIA POLICY

Background:

Public Health Service and USDA Policies require that IACUCs determine that methods of euthanasia in proposed research projects are consistent with the current version of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.

Purpose:

To ensure that all animals are humanely euthanized when necessary, according to professional recommendations or by other means that are scientifically justified.

Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to euthanize animals per the recommendations of the current [AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia](#) of Animals unless specifically approved in an IACUC Protocol by the UMKC IACUC.

Procedures:

1. Euthanasia procedures routinely used must comply with the current AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.
2. All procedures are to be approved by the IACUC prior to beginning any animal procedure.
3. All procedures will be performed as described in the approved IACUC protocol and will not be altered unless amended and approved by the IACUC.
4. All personnel responsible for completing the procedures will be adequately trained to complete the procedure in a humane and professional manner.
5. All devices used for euthanasia will be in good repair and function properly as described in the approved IACUC protocol.
6. Procedures not recommended by the current AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals will not be allowed unless scientifically justified and approved by the IACUC. In some cases, this may require a pilot study to be reviewed and approved by the IACUC and completed by the PI prior to approval of the proposed method of euthanasia. The LARC veterinary staff should be consulted when developing a method of euthanasia not recommended by the current AVMA guidelines to determine if the method is humane and well-designed to achieve minimal anxiety or stress in the animals.
7. Death must be confirmed by an acceptable secondary physical method as described in the approved IACUC protocol.
8. All animal carcasses must be secured in plastic bags and placed in the carcass freezer in Room 1521B for biological waste disposal via an external company.

Applicable To:

All personnel involved in the care or use of animals owned by the UMKC or in UMKC facilities.

Policy Approval:

This policy is intended to be flexible and readily adaptable to changes in regulatory requirements. The UMKC IACUC has the authority to amend this policy as needed. The UMKC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has reviewed and approved this policy.