



## **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

Responsible and sound animal care and use programs, properly communicated, reduce the risk but do not eliminate the potential for a crisis involving animal care and use.

The use of animals is necessary for some research and instructional programs, and this necessity carries an obligation for appropriate care and use of involved animals. Therefore, each staff member, student, faculty member, and research investigator are directly responsible to promote and protect animal welfare within the instructional and research programs of the university. This responsibility should be conveyed by example and extends to the education of future employees of the academic community.

All faculty members should be aware of university policies and procedures regarding the use of animals. These policies and procedures for animal use at the University of Scranton are located on the [website](#)

(<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/su27su2ETQq0.00000912 0 612 792 reW%hBT/F2 12 Tf1>)

The identification, selection, and application of a method of euthanasia which minimizes or removes both human and animal health concerns rests in the professional judgment of the Attending Veterinarian. In a disaster scenario, human safety, the animal species, and the urgency to relieve animal pain and distress outweigh study considerations such as data gathering, sample collection, and experimental endpoints. Consequently, the euthanasia method for a set of study animals based on experimental priorities may not be the appropriate euthanasia method to use on the same set of animals in a disaster event.

Although disaster euthanasia decisions addressing the management of a large population of research animals following a facility disaster or emergency rests with the Attending Veterinarian, the implementation of euthanasia orders will fall to the facility management and staff. In the event of a large-scale disaster, euthanasia of animals may be necessary if it is safe for LSC personnel to access the animals. Euthanasia will be the last resort and will be conducted under the direction of the PIs, Facility Manager, Attending Veterinarian, or IACUC Administrator. Questions concerning emergency animal care may be directed to the Facility Manager, the Attending Veterinarian, or the IACUC Administrator. Injured or affected animals will be triaged by trained animal care personnel and/or emergency veterinary staff as long as human safety is not compromised. Those animals deemed savable will be treated on site if possible, and/or transported to suitable, predetermined locations for further care. Those with life-threatening injuries or conditions not amenable to recovery will be humanely euthanized on site by trained

### **CRISIS RESPONSE**

In the event a crisis (loss of power, failure of temperature and/or humidity control systems, break-in, vandalism in animal facilities, or any other emergent situation) occurs, the LSC Animal Veterinarian, Dr. Robert Noto, and/or the Director of the Animal Facilities, Dr. Joe Brague, and/or IACUC Chair Dr. Christopher Howey and/or the LSC Animal Caretaker and Facilities Manager, Laura Raba should be contacted. During business hours, the initial contact may be made in a disaster, euthanasia

be utilized if possible. MS-222 (tricaine) will be utilized for fish and frogs if possible. Choice of anesthesia for other animals rests with the Attending Veterinarian and his recommendations should be sought at the time of protocol approval.

### **REPORTING RABIES OR SUSPECTED RABIES CONCERNS**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends if you have been bitten, scratched, or have had contact with the saliva of an animal that you believe is rabid, wash the wound immediately and call your doctor. Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, and foxes. The primary contact for rabies or suspected rabies is 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3254).

### **REPORTING ANIMAL CONCERNS**

It is especially important to be responsive to concerns raised about animal care and use within the university. All such concerns expressed by faculty, staff, students, or the public should be reported to any IACUC member, the University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, Dr. Robert Noto and/or Director of the Animal Facilities, Dr. Joe Brague and/or Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Dr. Christopher Howey. Please see Reporting Animal Concerns at the University of Scranton IACUC website for more information.

### **FACILITY SECURITY**

All persons using animal facilities are responsible for security in those facilities. Doors are to be locked during off duty hours. Any person not recognized as having legitimate business in an animal facility should be challenged. University Police should be called if there is any problem regarding unauthorized presence in an animal facility.

No statements are to be issued to the media without the approval of the Institutional Official (IO) Dr. David Dzurec, Associate Dean, or Dr. David Marx, Acting Provost for Academic Affairs.

### **REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup>*Guide for Laboratory Animal Care and Use*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, NAS Press, 2011.

Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Rodent Feti and Neonates, *NIH-ARAC*, Revised 09 Dec 2020.

<sup>2</sup>*AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*, AVMA Press, 2020.

Guidelines for Euthanasia of Rodents Using Carbon Dioxide, *NIH-ARAC*, Revised 22 Jun 2016.

cc: Dr. David Marx, Acting Provost/SVPAA  
Dr. David Dzurec, Associate Dean CAS  
Mr. Donald Bergmann, Director of Public Safety  
Mr. James Caffrey, Dir. Operations and Maintenance  
Dr. Janice Voltzow, Biology Chair  
Mr. Michael Baltrusaitis, Health and Safety Officer  
Ms. Brooke Leonard, Director of ORSP

Ms. Laura Raba, Animal Caretaker  
Dr. Joan Wasilewski, Chemistry Chair  
Dr. Carolyn McNamara Barry, Dean CAS  
Ms. Meg Hambrose, ORSP  
Mr. Richard Trygar, Chem. Stockroom  
Ms. Deb Wardach, Biology Lab Manager