

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
ANIMAL CARE AND VETERINARY SERVICES

CRITERIA FOR EARLY EUTHANASIA / MAMMALS / NON-RODENTS

Standard Operating Procedure # 322-02

1 **INTRODUCTION**

“Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) provide a detailed description of procedures to be followed unless alternate procedures have been outlined in an “Application to Use Animals”. If an investigator wishes to proceed differently from an approved SOP, the changes must be itemized in the application. To assist the Animal Use Subcommittee in protocol review, the reasons for deviating from the standard procedure should also be included. Approval of the protocol indicates approval of the deviation from the SOP for that project only.

Unless specifically outlined in the approved animal use protocol the following guidelines must be used to euthanize mammals prior to the usual end point of the experiment.

2 **PROCEDURE**

- 2.1 Monitor animals carefully. Visual monitoring is not adequate to assess body condition and dehydration.
- 2.2 Monitor animal frequently. Unanaesthetized deaths should not occur. Animals must not become debilitated.
- 2.3 Report any condition, disease or injury not specifically outlined in the approved animal use protocol or conditions resulting from the protocol which are of a greater severity than anticipated.
- 2.4 Criteria to be used are:
- 2.4.1 Weight loss. A maximum of 10-15% of an adult's weight is permitted (this depends on the original condition of the animal, 15% weight loss in a greyhound would not be acceptable. Juveniles must be evaluated on an individual basis. Emaciation and debilitation are not permitted. Provide palatable foods in small amounts to animals which are not eating well. If the animal continues to lose weight it must be provided with nutritional supplementation (pharyngotomy tube, gavage or force feeding). (Diets are available from ACVS)

OR

- 2.4.2 Dehydration. If an animal is not drinking try offering electrolyte solutions (available from ACVS). Warm subcutaneous or intravenous fluids may be required in order to maintain hydration.

OR

- 2.4.3 Continued depression or lethargy.

OR

- 2.4.4 Any condition, as outlined in 2.3, which an ACVS veterinarian deems severe enough to warrant the euthanasia of the animal.

3 **SUMMARY**

If in doubt, contact ACVS for assistance in assessing the condition of animals.

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