Standard Operating Procedure
USC INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE POLICY

Rodent Euthanasia Effective 12/9/09
The primary method for the euthanasia of rodents must be written in Section 16a and must include one of the following:
- CO₂, barbiturate overdose, ketamine/xylazine, or isoflurane anesthesia

After one of the methods listed above is used, one of the following must be employed and written in Section 16b as a secondary method of euthanasia.

Mice:
- cervical dislocation
- decapitation
- creation of a pneumothorax via thoracotomy or sternotomy
- Dissection that ensures death (i.e. removal of major organs such as brain, heart, lung)
- exsanguination
- barbiturate overdose (i.e. Euthasol®, Na Pentobarbital)

Rats *:
- thoracotomy
- exsanguination
- dissection that ensures death (i.e. removal of major organs such as brain, heart, lung)
- decapitation
- barbiturate overdose (i.e. Euthasol®, Na Pentobarbital)

*Cervical dislocation will no longer be approved as a method for euthanasia in rats, hamsters, or gerbils of any size.

Neonates:
Neonatal mice and rats 0-6 days old must be euthanized by one of the following methods:
- Hypothermia anesthesia (30 seconds on ice) followed by decapitation
- Decapitation alone
Hamsters, Guinea Pigs, Gerbils and for other rodents not listed here please contact the DAR Veterinary Staff for information regarding more specific euthanasia procedures.

This policy is in accordance with the AVMA Guidelines on euthanasia and the ACLAM Task Force Statement.