**UMKC IACUC POLICY**

**Euthanasia**

**Background:**

Public Health Service and USDA Polices 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.

**Policy:**

It is the Policy of the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to euthanize animals in accordance with the recommendations of the current [AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia](https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf) of Animals unless specifically approved by the UMKC IACUC.

**Purpose:**

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

**Procedures:**

1. Euthanasia procedures routinely used should 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 to perform euthanasia will be in good repair and function properly.
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.

**Applicable To:**

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

**Policy Approval:**

The UMKC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has reviewed and approved this policy as attested by the signature of the Committee Chairperson.

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Committee Chairperson Date