

LABORATORY ANIMAL SERVICES HUMANE KILLING POLICY FOR RATS AND MICE

Laboratory Animal Services staff are able to humanely kill animals that are either excess or finished experiments, however there is restrictions to the amount of animals requested to be killed by one researcher at one time.

The ‘Australian Code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes’ states in section 1.13 “Overproduction of animals bred for scientific purposes should be avoided so that the need to kill healthy animals is minimised”. Therefore due to the distressing nature of killing large amounts of excess animals, Laboratory Animal Services has set the following guidelines:

- Researchers must clearly place on the cull trolley all cages that need to be killed with “Cull” on the cage card written in texta.
- If the number of animals (any age) to be killed is **<30 animals**:
= LAS will kill the animals from 2pm daily
- If the total number of animals (any age) to be killed is **>30 animals**:
= LAS will kill the animals but within 24 hours
OR
= The researcher can choose to kill the animals themselves

**No cages are to be placed on the cull trolley after 2pm
(particularly on a Friday)**

**No rodents are to be placed on the cull trolley if they are to be humane killed due to welfare issued (i.e. injured or ill).
The animal must be humanly killed immediately by the researcher.**

All killing and euthanasia of animals must follow Section 3.3.18 - 3.3.23 of the ‘Australian Code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes’.

REFERENCES

- Australian Code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes
- 7th Edition 2004

Endorsed by the AEC at its meeting on 9.12.10