



## **LABORATORY ANIMAL SERVICES HUMANE KILLING GUIDELINES FOR RATS AND MICE**

**Guideline No:MSAH #77**

**Prepared by: Pacita Wissell and Denise Noonan**

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**Authorised By: Andrew Bartlett, Manager and Denise Noonan,  
Animal Welfare Officer**

**Signed:**

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Laboratory Animal Services staff offer a limited service to humanely kill rodents, however it is expected where possible researchers kill their rodents themselves and that there are time constraints on the number of rodents able to be killed without prior notification to the Facility Coordinator.

### **BEFORE 2PM**

- **No rodents are to be placed on the cull trolley if they are to be humanely killed for welfare reasons (i.e. injured or ill). The animal must be humanely killed immediately by the researcher. Please seek LAS assistance if required.**
- Researchers must clearly place on the "cull trolley" all cages that need to be killed.
- The cage must be labelled with a cage card, including name of the person placing the rodents on the cull trolley.
- Rodents must have access to food and water at all times.
- If the number of cages (any age) to be killed is **<10 cages**:  
= LAS will kill the animals from 2pm daily.
- If the total number of animals (any age) to be killed is **>10 cages**:  
= LAS will kill the animals but within 24 hours and charge technical assistance cost for a minimum time of 15mins or more if taken over 15 minutes and the Facility Coordinator must be notified of the technical assists required by LAS

OR

= The researcher can choose to kill the animals themselves as per SOP MSAH #37 CO2 Instructions.

- LAS will only cull rodents on the cull trolley.
- **No cages are to be placed on the cull trolley after 2pm (particularly on a Friday) unless prior notification has been received by the Facility Coordinator.**

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 - 7<sup>th</sup> Edition 2004
- *Revision Author:* Pacita Wissell
- Facility Coordinator (Medical School)
- Laboratory Animal Services
- The University of Adelaide

*Original 2003, Endorsed by the AEC at its meeting on 26.06.2003*

*Revision 2010 endorsed by the AEC at its meeting on 09.12.2010*

*Revision 2012 endorsed by the AEC at its meeting on 04.12.2012*

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