

Research Animal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) must meet the following criteria:

1. Describe procedures or activities involving research animal(s) common to more than one research project.
2. Support the handling and or performance or undertaking of a procedure(s), involving an animal, in the same way on each occasion it is performed.
3. Describe a procedure or activity involving a research animal(s) undertaken by more than one person; and
4. Describe a procedure or activity involving a research animal(s) that will be undertaken in more than one location.

Name of Procedure	Euthanasia by cervical dislocation	
Species	Mouse	
ACEC	Reference	SOP#10 – May23- Euthanasia-by-cervical-dislocation-mouse
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	Version	1.4
	Date approved	26 May 2023
	Date for review	26 May 2026
	Procedure classification 1. Observation involving minor interference 2. Animal unconscious without recovery 3. Minor conscious intervention 4. Minor surgery with recovery 5. Major surgery with recovery 6. Minor physiological challenge 7. Major physiological challenge	2
Ethical considerations	1. Respect for animals must underpin all decisions and actions involving the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. 2. The procedure must be performed according to current best practice to support the wellbeing of the animal. 3. Persons performing this procedure must be competent in the procedure or be under the direct supervision of someone who is competent.	

Details

1. Purpose

To describe the euthanasia of mice using cervical dislocation in such a way as to ensure rapid death with minimal distress.

2. Description of procedure

EQUIPMENT

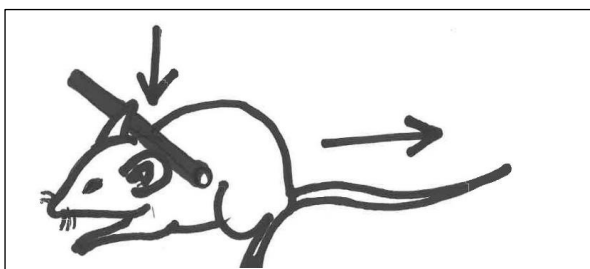
1. Heavy pair of scissors, steel rod

PROCEDURE

NOTE: This procedure must only be performed by people who are experienced, or under the supervision of an experienced person. If the procedure is done incorrectly, it can lead to a slow and painful death.

Less experienced personnel should first anaesthetise the mouse with isoflurane or injectable anaesthesia following the appropriate ACEC approved SOP before performing cervical dislocation.

1. Euthanasia must be carried out in a quiet place away from other animals.
2. Ensure that only one animal is dealt with at a time. Any other animals must be kept in a separate room and the cage covered with a sheet or other appropriate light blocking material.
3. Catch the mouse by the tail and remove the mouse from its cage.
4. Place the mouse on the bench top.
5. While still holding the mouse by the base of the tail, place the closed scissors or rod firmly behind the ears of the mouse and across the neck. Experienced personnel may replace the scissor/rod with the finger and thumb of the hand not grasping the tail of the mouse. The first finger and thumb are held against the back of the neck at the base of the skull.
6. Apply downward pressure to the neck at the same time as the tail is pulled sharply backwards at a 30° angle to the bench top. This instantly dislocates the cervical vertebrae, causing death.



ACEC Chair

