

University of Colorado at Boulder

Office of Research Integrity

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

SOP # 23

Title: Donation of Rodents to the Birds of Prey Foundation

PURPOSE: To describe the conditions for donating rodents to Birds of Prey

DEFINITIONS

- Wild-type: an animal that has not been genetically modified in any way.
- Birds of Prey Foundation (BPF): non-profit organization with the mission of rehabilitating and releasing injured and orphaned raptors back into the wild.

CONDITIONS FOR DONATION

- Wild-type rodents must be separated from transgenic animals and those treated with hazardous chemicals. Only wild-type rodents that have not been treated with potentially hazardous chemicals or agents can be donated to the Birds of Prey Foundation.
 - Genetically modified animals are required to be appropriately disposed of by the University per the NIH-OBA recombinant DNA rules
 - If animals are euthanized with the intention of using them for human or animal food, chemical agents that result in tissue residues cannot be used, unless they are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.ⁱ Carbon dioxide is the only chemical that does not result in tissue residues.ⁱⁱ. Carcasses of animals euthanized by barbituric acid derivatives or other chemical agents may contain potentially harmful residues. These carcasses should be disposed of in a manner that will keep them separate from the Birds of Prey donations.
- All rodents going to the Birds of Prey Foundation or a similar organization must be euthanized prior to pick up.
- Rodents that are no longer used for research and meet the above criteria may be donated to BPF. The IACUC accepts this as an Institutional policy and does not require BoP to be listed on the protocols.

PROCEDURE FOR DONATION

- Cages containing appropriate animals (described above) for donation to the Birds of Prey Foundation should be marked as such. Mark cages with "BPF" or "Raptor" to indicate that the animals can be humanely euthanized with carbon dioxide and set aside for donation.
- Researchers may euthanize their own animals with carbon dioxide while following the SOP for Carbon Dioxide Euthanasia and appropriately mark the bag that the animals are placed in with Raptor or Birds of Prey and talk to their animal facility manager about which freezer to store those animals in.
- Researchers may allow animal care staff to euthanize animals for them if they are labeled appropriately for donation.
- Animals with plastic or metal ear identification tags should have the tags removed after euthanasia but prior to being frozen for donation to Birds of Prey Foundation.
- Animals that have been subjected to surgery where a foreign body has been implanted (telemetry device, synthetic skin graft, etc.) should have those implanted devices removed after euthanasia prior to donation.
- Animals designated for the Birds of Prey Foundation should be kept in freezers entirely separate from other euthanized animals, or kept in distinct parts of the freezer, so we are certain that only non-genetically modified animals without biohazards are being donated.

ⁱ **Booth NH.** Drug and chemical residues in the edible tissues of animals. In: Booth NH, McDonald LE, eds. *Veterinary pharmacology and therapeutics*. 6th ed. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988; 1149–1205.

ⁱⁱ **American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines on Euthanasia 2013 Edition, pg 16:**

"Regardless of the euthanasia method chosen, animal remains must be handled appropriately and in accord with state and local law. Regulations apply not only to the disposition of the animal's remains (eg, burial, incineration, rendering), but also to the management of chemical residues (eg, pharmaceuticals [including but not limited to barbiturates, such as pentobarbital] and other residues, such as lead) that may adversely affect scavengers or result in the adulteration of rendered products used for animal feed. Alternatives to the use of pentobarbital that may reduce the risk of secondary toxicity include general anesthesia followed by nontoxic injectable agents such as potassium chloride, or the application of physical methods such as penetrating captive bolt or gunshot. These alternatives, however, are not risk free.