 ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE	Euthanasia Policy for RUSVM's Animal Care and Use Program Pol.010	Issued	November 2016
		Revised	Sept 2020
		Authority	IACUC

I. Purpose

To describe the approved method for evaluating the need for humane euthanasia and/or recommend continued supportive care and assessment of animals that are part of RUSVM's Animal Care and Use Program that are considered to be in pain and/or distress, or terminally ill.

The method of euthanasia should be consistent with the 2020 AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.

II. Scope/Responsibility

The IACUC is responsible for oversight of the entire Animal Care and Use Program at RUSVM. The Clinical Veterinarian is responsible for making clinical decisions in any given case as to whether euthanasia is or is not necessary. The Sick Animal Reporting Flow Chart should be followed for the course of action and communication.

The IACUC protocol should state how euthanasia is to be performed if this deviates from IACUC guidelines and what needs to be sampled from the animal prior to or following euthanasia. If any questions or concerns or conflicts occur, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) is to be contacted. Following euthanasia, the AV is to be notified in writing (email) within 48 hours.

III. Definitions


Clinical Veterinarian: Either the applicable veterinarian on the on-call list or the veterinarian involved in a teaching/research protocol.

Attending Veterinarian: The Attending Veterinarian (AV) has the authority per the USDA Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (The Guide) and in compliance with AAALACi guidelines to provide adequate veterinary care. The AWA states "Each research facility shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use".

IV. Materials

Animal Assessment Worksheet (see Appendix 1): The Animal Assessment worksheet is required as a tool to assess an animal's condition in determining if they should be euthanized, not euthanized and/or continue/start treatment and assessment under a veterinarian's supervision.

V. Procedure

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1. Fill out Assessment sheet to determine endpoint. See point 3 for specific cases where euthanasia is required without the use of an assessment sheet.
2. If euthanasia is determined to be the endpoint, follow the species specific IACUC approved Euthanasia SOP.
3. Specific Instructions:

The following 1-7 situations require euthanasia as a humane endpoint. The assessment sheet should be used in all other cases where there exists concern for an animal's health and welfare. It should also be used as documentation for any animal euthanized.

1. Wounding with such significant damage, that on recovery, the animal would be impaired in state or function.
2. An infection which does not respond to maximal doses of the proper antibiotic regime and/or other appropriate symptomatic treatment, and can only continue to be kept alive with continuous supportive therapy.
3. An important experimental animal that can yield significant data if properly and humanely euthanized.
4. An animal which can no longer perform normal life sustaining behaviors such as eating, drinking, urination, defecation without intervention.
5. An aggressive neoplasm that effects the animal's well-being and where pain and suffering cannot be alleviated through treatment or medication.
6. An animal whose pain, distress and/ or suffering cannot be alleviated, for whatever reason. Alleviation of such pain or distress takes precedence over continuing or finishing the experiment or teaching procedure.
7. An animal that is assessed to be a danger to itself or other animals and humans and can not be trained or worked with to improve the condition.

The Attending Veterinarian must be notified in writing (email) within 48 hr of the procedure.


VI. Review

This Policy is subject to annual review.

Policy Approval:

Signed

Date

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Appendix 1. Euthanasia Assessment Score Sheet

Complete the attached table and add together the number of “V” for each score category (0-5).

Use the below table to determine the next steps.

Score Interpretation	Number of “V” for scores:		
	3	4	5
Monitor closely. Re assess in 24 h with AV. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must be able to manage pain and distress with treatment if it does not interfere with research objectives Euthanasia should be considered if the patient cannot be kept within normal physiological parameters medically 	< 4	< 3	
Monitor closely, Re assess every 4 hrs with AV. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must be able to manage pain and distress with treatment if it does not interfere with research objectives Euthanasia should be considered if the patient cannot be kept within normal physiological parameters medically 	≥ 4	≥ 3	≥ 1



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Physical Exam		Score to "x"	Score					
			0	1	2	3	4	5
Body Temperature:	Within 15% of reference range	0						
	Great than 15% deviation from ref. range	3						
Cardiovascular:	HR Clinically appropriate							
Respiration	RR clinically appropriate							
	Abnormal Pattern							
	Inappropriate rate							
Body Condition/BW	Normal Habitus							
	Poor condition							
	Emaciated							
Attitude	Bright, alert responsive							
	Quiet, alert, responsive							
	Depressed, responsive							
	Depressed, unresponsive							
	Restless, vocalising or immobile							
Appetite:	Comatose							
	Good							
	Decreased							
	Poor							
	Anorexic							
Serum Biochemistry/CBC	NPO							
	No significant alterations							
	Significant alterations but not severely abnormal							
Special Considerations:	Severe alterations							
	Ruminants: Rumens Atony							
Lameness	Equids: Absent Gut Sounds							
	Grade 3							
	Grade 4							
	Grade 5							
Assessment of Pain Level	Fracture: Non weight bearing							
Add the number of 'X' in each score category:								