

**Policy No:**

**Responsible Committee:** IACUC

**Last Review Date:**

**Next Required Review:** reviewed semi-annually by the IACUC

## IACUC: Euthanasia of Guinea Pigs, Rabbits, and Swine

---

### 1. Purpose

USA IACUC follows the *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals*, 2020 edition. In this edition, the AVMA Panel recommends methods generally considered to be rapid and humane for the animals involved and are compatible with research requirements. These methods are to be performed only by trained, experienced personnel. However, there are methods detailed in the 2020 edition of *the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals* that are prohibited at the University of South Alabama. In agreement with the IACUC, the Attending Veterinarian requires the use of sedation or anesthesia prior to euthanasia of USDA-regulated species.

### 2. Applicability

Only certain individuals have been trained to euthanize USDA-covered species. These individuals are currently those with permission to dispense controlled substances: the veterinarian, the veterinary technician(s) and the DCM supervisor(s). PI's and research staff may be trained to euthanize USDA-covered species at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian and if approved by the IACUC.

### 3. Definitions

AVMA: American Veterinary Medical Association

IACUC: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

### 4. Policy Guidelines

This Policy covers guinea pigs, rabbits, and swine. As stated in the introduction, the USA IACUC is compliant with the *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals*, 2020 edition. There are some methods detailed in the AVMA Guidelines which are prohibited at USA unless scientifically justified and reviewed and approved by the IACUC. For example, **CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia of guinea pigs, rabbits, and swine is prohibited at USA** unless scientifically justified and reviewed and approved by the IACUC. The accepted method for the euthanasia of guinea pigs, rabbits, and swine is barbiturate overdose. **In addition, sedation or anesthesia is REQUIRED prior to euthanasia of the species listed above.** If sedation (or anesthesia) prior to euthanasia would affect the study, this change from the accepted procedure(s) at USA must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC.

### 5. Procedures

The dose(s) of drug(s) used for sedation and of the euthanasia agent(s) are to be calculated by the veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician(s) based on the body weight of the animal.

## 6. Enforcement

The IACUC has the authority to enforce the provisions of this policy, and if necessary suspend research, or implement appropriate sanctions. In addition, the Attending Veterinarian has direct program authority and responsibility for the institution's animal care and use program including access to all animals. She has the authority and responsibility to implement the *PHS Policy* and the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8<sup>th</sup> edition* for the entire animal program.

## 7. Related Documents

<https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/2020-Euthanasia-Final-1-17-20.pdf>