Euthanasia with Isoflurane BYU Standard Operating Procedure

190711SC

1. Ensure that Isoflurane euthanasia is approved as part of your IACUC protocol. Obtain Isoflurane and approved porous material (typically a sponge or cotton ball). Contact the University Veterinarian to order Isoflurane; this will be paid for by each lab.
2. Bring the animals that will be euthanized into a room with a BioSafety Cabinet (BSC). Typically, animals will be euthanized in their home cage; if this is not the case, place the animals to be euthanized in a new cage.
3. Place the cage of animals, the isoflurane, and the porous item inside of the BSC.
4. Put approximately 2 mL of isoflurane on the cotton ball or sponge.
5. Place the cotton ball or sponge on the feed hopper inside the cage or inside a tea strainer on the floor of the cage. Replace the lid on the cage. Wait for two minutes or until the animals are not moving or breathing.
6. Remove the cage lid and perform another approved method of euthanasia. For weanlings, juveniles, and adult animals cervical dislocation is typically preferred. For neonates, decapitation with a sharp blade is generally required. Perform the secondary method inside the BSC.
7. Still working in the BSC, place the dead animals in a labeled Ziploc bag. This includes the date of euthanasia, PI name, coordinates, and protocol number.
8. Remove the porous material from the feed hopper and place it in the bag with the dead animals.
9. Replace the lid on the cage and place it on the dirty cage rack. Disinfect the BSC with Vivarium cleaner and place the bag of dead animals in the freezer.

*Updated 7/16/20*