

University of Pennsylvania-Radiology

Small Animal Imaging Facility

Standard Operating Procedure

Title: Waste & Carcass Disposal Policy

SOP Number: 3.03

Version Number: 2

Effective Date: October 10, 2023

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Review Date: October 8, 2023

Approval: Katie Zaifert, Director of Regulatory Compliance

- I. Purpose:** Animal facilities generate several forms of waste and some require special handling. This standard operating procedure describes the proper disposal of all waste materials in all SAIF areas.

- II. Responsibilities and Scope:** This policy covers all animal areas at the Small Animal Imaging Facility using animals for research, teaching, or testing. All SAIF users are responsible for maintaining a clean working environment and properly disposing of Biohazardous waste as outlined in ULAR SOP 10.60.

- III. Definitions:**
 - a. Sharps-Scalpels, broken glassware, needles, syringes & blades. See SAIF SOP 2.03
 - b. Biohazard: is an organism, or substance derived from an organism, that poses a threat to (primarily) human health. This can include medical waste or samples of a microorganism, toxin, or virus (from a biological source) that can impact human health. It can also include substances harmful to animals.
 - c. Carcasses- all dead animals are considered infectious waste and a biohazard.

- IV. Procedures:**
 - a. Non-contaminated Waste
 - i. Empty rodent boxes containing soiled, non-contaminated bedding is to be placed in the ULAR designated areas within the animal facilities, not left in the procedure room.
 - ii. All messes made around the SAIF work space used by an investigator are the responsibility of that investigator to clean up.
 - iii. All empty rodent cages are to be removed from the procedure room by the person(s) who used the cages for transport, and returned to the designated ULAR areas within the facility by the end of the day.

b. General Room Trash

- i. All trash generated while using the SAIF procedure room must be placed in the trash can(s) provided.
- ii. PPE material should be placed in trash cans designated for PPE Only.

c. Carcass Removal and Disposal

- i. **Animal carcasses are NOT to be left in the refrigerator or freezer** of the SAIF animal procedure rooms.
- ii. Place non-radioactive carcasses in a leak-proof bag body bag and return the carcasses to the ULAR-designated cold room for disposal according to the procedures outlined in ULAR SOP 10.60.
- iii. All SAIF areas are to be kept clean of any blood or other leakage from carcass bags.

d. **Radioisotope Contaminated bedding, trash, and carcasses MUST** be left in John Morgan B96 for 10 half-lives to decay and will be disposed of by the SAIF staff.

V. Safety Considerations: Sharps must be placed into designated sharps containers and never placed into trash containers.

VI. References:

- a. SAIF SOP 2.03 Policy on Sharps Handling and Disposal
- b. ULAR SOP 10.60 Waste and Carcass Disposal Policy

VII. Attachments: None

VIII. Document History:

Version Number	Effective Date	Author	Reason
1	December 9, 2005	LR Cheatham	New Policy

