

# University of Pennsylvania-Radiology

## Small Animal Imaging Facility

### Standard Operating Procedure

---

**Title:** Humane Euthanasia

**SOP Number:** 3.02

**Version Number:** 2

**Effective Date:** October 10, 2023

**Page** 1 of 2

**Review Date:** October 8, 2023

**Approval:** Katie Zaifert, Director of Regulatory Compliance

**I. Purpose:** University Laboratory Animal Resources (ULAR) are authorized to euthanize laboratory animals when requested by investigators, when required to alleviate pain, that cannot be otherwise alleviated, or when required for diagnostic and other purposes.

**II. Responsibilities and Scope:** It is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that the appropriate ULAR forms are completed to request euthanasia of their animals housed in SAIF according to ULAR SOP 6.45. SAIF personnel will not euthanize animals for an investigator.

**III. Definitions:** None

**IV. Procedures:**

**1. Standard Procedure to Request Euthanasia from ULAR**

- a. A completed ULAR euthanasia request form found on the ULAR website must be filled out by the investigator. The complete request form must be returned to the appropriate ULAR supervisor.
- b. Animals identified for euthanasia by a SAIF user will be removed by ULAR and euthanized within a timely manner, but no later than 72 hours after the request has been submitted according to ULAR's policy (ULAR SOP 6.45)
- c. No animal will be euthanized by SAIF personnel.

**2. Emergency Procedure for Euthanasia by ULAR**

- a. Any animal appearing to be ill or suffering by a ULAR animal technician will be reported to a ULAR veterinarian or the person on after-hours duty.
- b. The ULAR veterinarian will evaluate the situation. If euthanasia is deemed necessary, the ULAR veterinarian will call the investigator on whose protocol the animal is being used. If the investigator agrees to euthanasia, the veterinarian will fill out a euthanasia request form, which will include the name of the person giving euthanasia permission, the date, and the reason for euthanasia.

SOP 3.02 Humane Euthanasia

Page 2 of 2

- c. Euthanasia will be carried out immediately by the ULAR veterinarian or a veterinary technician. Euthanasia will not be administered by a veterinary technician without direct instructions from the veterinarian.
- d. In cases where an animal seems to be in pain for a prolonged period and the principal investigator or his designee cannot be reached, the ULAR veterinarian may euthanize the animal for humane reasons.

**V. Safety Considerations:**

- 1. Only persons who have been appropriately trained may perform euthanasia.

**VI. References:**

- 1. ULAR SOP 3.02 Humane Euthanasia of Laboratory Animals for ULAR Staff

**VII. Attachments:** None

**VIII. Document History:**

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reason</b>
1	December 9, 2005	LR Cheatham	New Policy

