

SOP No: AHT 36

SUBJECT: Euthanasia of Rats or Mice (Carbon dioxide)

PRECAUTIONS: Gloves, eye protection, mask, long-sleeved gown, closed in shoes.

POLICY: The infusion of CO₂ must be carried out by an experienced operator.

EQUIPMENT: sealed glass chamber
cylinder containing CO₂ (not 'dry ice')

PROCEDURE:

1. Place the rat or mouse in the chamber and replace the lid.
2. Turn on the CO₂ tap slowly and allow to run for a minute (depending on the size of the chamber) and turn off.
3. When the mouse has stopped breathing, remove from the chamber.
4. Ensure that the animal does not begin rebreathing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Place rat or mouse into the chamber before applying CO₂. If appropriate gas anaesthetic equipment is available and the operator is trained in its use, gas anaesthesia prior to euthanasia is preferred.

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REFERENCES

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3. Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Mouse and Rat Fetuses and Neonates. NIH Animal Research Advisory Committee, 2001.
4. Hawkins P et al. 2006 Newcastle Consensus Meeting on Carbon Dioxide Euthanasia of Laboratory Animals