

SOP No: AHT 38

SUBJECT: Euthanasia of Rats (decapitation).

POLICY: Operator must be very experienced and competent at this technique.

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

EQUIPMENT: guillotine

PROCEDURE:

1. Restrain and swing rat gently to disorient.
2. Place rat in the guillotine and quickly decapitate.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This procedure should only be attempted with one rat in the room at a time to avoid distressing others.

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REFERENCES

1. American Veterinary Medical Association, Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia, JAVMA (1993) 202: 229-249.
2. *The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals*, 6th Edition. Ed. T.B. Poole, Longman Scientific and Technical, 1998.
3. *Recommendations for euthanasia of experimental animals*, Report of a Working Party. Reprinted from *Laboratory Animals* (1996) 30:293-316 and (1997) 31: 1-32.