TITLE: Guillotine Maintenance and Use

PURPOSE: To standardize the procedures for guillotine maintenance and use.

REVIEW/REVISIONS: The IACUC will review and revise this guidance as needed.

Personnel

Personnel performing decapitation must be properly trained before performing decapitation. University Animal Care can assist in training if desired. IACUC Guidance 201 describes the additional training requirements for individuals performing decapitation of non-anesthetized animals.

Use

Guillotines should be clean, in good condition, sharp and move freely. The action should be smooth with no perceptible binding or resistance, and the blade must be rust-free, sharp, and decapitate with minimal force. Lubrication may not be needed, but if it is, the use of a Teflon® or Silicone® containing compound is recommended over petroleum based compounds. This is because petroleum compounds will dry out or leave deposits that hinder operation. Any deficiencies must be repaired prior to use.

Disposable plastic containers (such as Decapicones® or Rodent Restraint Cones®) are recommended to improve positioning, minimize distress and increase personnel safety.

After use, guillotines should be rinsed, cleaned, rinsed with 70% alcohol, and thoroughly dried.

Maintenance

Blades should be sharpened periodically. The frequency of sharpening depends on frequency of unit use and the species euthanized.

Blades that are no longer serviceable must be placed in a sharps container for disposal.

Inspection

A log of guillotine use and maintenance should be kept in the lab. Guillotines and their maintenance logs will be inspected as part of the IACUC semi-annual inspections. An example of such a log is available at: http://orcr.vpr.arizona.edu/IACUC/Forms#Forms-Other.