



University Committee on Animal Care

Policy on Maintenance of Guillotines and Scissors Used for Euthanasia

Guillotines or scissors used for decapitation of animals must be kept clean and in good working condition, and the blades must be kept sharp. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that equipment used to euthanize animals is properly maintained, to help make certain that animals are euthanized humanely and in accordance with the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

Location of guillotines and scissors used for decapitation

- Guillotines and scissors used for euthanasia of animals should be stored as closely as possible to the area where animals will be decapitated. Transportation of sharp objects increases the likelihood of injury to employees, and the instruments may also act as a fomite when moved among different locations.
- If the instrument must be moved from one area to another, great care must be taken to protect employees from injury, and the instrument should be sprayed with Coverage TB (Steris) or Quatricide TB (Pharmactal) or an equivalent disinfectant.

Maintenance

Before/after each use:

- Personnel who use a guillotine or scissors for euthanasia must be properly trained and are responsible for properly maintaining the instrument.
- Before each use, the instrument should be checked for cleanliness and for the absence of rust, debris, or rough edges.
- After each use, rinse well with cold running water and then clean with a disinfectant.
- Allow the instrument to dry, then store in an area which will minimize the potential for personnel inadvertently coming into contact with the instrument.

Every 4 months:

- Examine blades and check for rust or debris and for rough/dull edges. Sharpen dull blades. If blades are rusted or damaged, they should be discarded in a sharps container.
- Lubricate instrument as needed to ensure smooth operation.

Approved by the ETSU University Committee on Animal Care: July 8th, 2010

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