

Title: Maintenance of Blades used for Euthanasia, IACUC Administrative Policy # P-0023-01

Effective Date: 18-January, 2018

Authorized by: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Office of Research Compliance

Revision History: 18-January, 2018 (-01)

## I. Background

Blades used for euthanasia via decapitation, such as guillotines and shears, must be kept in working order free of rust, visible nicks or other damage to the cutting edge, with no binding or resistance and service regularly in order to afford animals a humane method of euthanasia in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines on Euthanasia.

## II. Policy

Principal Investigators (PIs) must have their guillotines and other similar equipment maintained or replaced at least annually or more frequently as needed based on use. PIs are required to establish and maintain either a service log or other method of documenting maintenance.

- Documentation should include (at a minimum):
  - Service date and/or next due date (if different than 1 year)
  - Initials of individual verifying serviceability
- PIs who provide documentation from the manufacturer that their device does not require yearly maintenance will be exempt from this policy, however the PI must follow the manufacturer guidelines and document maintenance according to those guidelines.
- If blade is being kept in an animal area but not currently being used on live animals, it must be clearly labeled “not for live animal use” and must be sharpened prior to any use on live animals.
- It is recommended that blades be tested for sharpness on suitable materials such as polyethylene tubing.
- A sharp blade will cut test material with minimal force without dragging it between the blades or sticking.

During IACUC semi-annual inspections, maintenance logs may be inspected and blade sharpness verified.

### Additional Information:

For questions, additional details or to request changes to this policy, please contact the IACUC Office [IACUC\\_Admin@cmich.edu](mailto:IACUC_Admin@cmich.edu) or Office of Research Compliance [RESCOMPLIANCE@cmich.edu](mailto:RESCOMPLIANCE@cmich.edu) with questions.