



Dartmouth College

## Animal Care and Use Program

### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

#### IACUC Policies and Procedures

**Title:** Maintenance of Guillotines used for Euthanasia by Decapitation

**Policy:** The Principal Investigator must ensure that all personnel using the guillotine are properly trained and proficient in its use. It is required that all animals be sedated or anesthetized before decapitation unless precluded by scientific considerations and specifically justified to, and approved by, the IACUC.

Guillotines must be kept clean and sharp. Operator should ensure that the action is smooth with no perceptible binding or resistance. The blade must be rust-free, sharp, and decapitate with minimal force. Guillotines must be lubricated as needed with silicone. Guillotines must be sharpened a minimum of every 12 months, or more often as needed.

A log book should be maintained in close proximity to the guillotine and include the following information:

- Identification number of the guillotine.
- Room location.
- Person responsible for maintenance and repair.
- A column tracking usage (i.e., date, species and number of animals euthanized).
- A column tracking date of blade sanitization and blade sharpening.

The use of plastic cones, such as Decapicones®, for animal restraint is recommended to provide good restraint, minimize distress, improve positioning, and enhance operator safety.

The time that animals are kept in the same room as the guillotine should be minimized.

Suggested daily maintenance of the guillotine:

- Rinse the entire guillotine under fast-running cold water to remove any blood and tissues.
- Scrub the base with disinfectant to reduce gross contamination.
- Perform final rinse with alcohol to ensure evaporation and reduce the need to hand-dry the equipment.
- Turn the guillotine upside down with the blades opened to facilitate drying.

*Note: Use of scissors, knives, or scalpels, or cutting with something other than a guillotine to perform decapitation is not permitted without being justified to, and approved by, the IACUC.*