

<b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b>		<b>UNT Health</b>
<b>Title:</b> Carcass Disposal		
<b>Document #:</b> 016	<b>Version #:</b> 05	
<b>Approved by IACUC Date:</b> February 24, 2026		

**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- a. The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* requires that all conventional, biologic and hazardous waste (including animal carcasses) be removed and disposed of regularly and safely.

**B. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that lab freezers do not become overfilled with carcasses.
- b. It is the responsibility of DLAM personnel to regularly dispose of all carcasses from the carcass freezer.
- c. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for the oversight and content of this policy.

**C. PROCEDURES**

- a. Under no circumstances shall animal carcasses be placed into trash dumpsters or regular trash.
- b. How to dispose to animal carcasses:
  - i. Conventional Housing
    - 1. Place animal carcasses in an opaque bag, and give to a DLAM staff member to place in the carcass freezer. In RES, to locate a DLAM staff member, please call the DLAM Office Main line for assistance. In CBH, arrange with a DLAM staff member to pick the carcass up from the lab or to meet at the vivarium freezer by the freight elevator on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. In IREB, Place animal carcasses in an opaque bag, and place in the -0° freezer located in the IREB vivarium.
    - 2. Alternatively, small animals such as mice, may be placed in a glove, if the whole animal is covered by the glove, and given to the DLAM staff member to place in the carcass freezer.
    - 3. Large animal carcasses must be placed in a large, opaque plastic bag that is tied or secured. The bag(s) are then taken to the carcass freezer, located on the loading dock area, with the assistance of a DLAM member. Assistance may be needed to lift heavier bags.
  - ii. ABSL2 Suite
    - 1. Place animal carcasses in an opaque bag, and place in the red biohazard bin, located in the biohazard suite.
    - 2. Carcasses of animals used with hazardous or radioactive materials should be placed in a red biohazard bag and placed in the carcass freezer by DLAM staff. This waste will be transferred to the Safety Office. Consult with the Safety Office regarding disposal of this type of waste.

- a. The bag needs to be labeled with the hazard name, date, and PI name.
  - b. The bag needs to be labeled with a Rad label if applicable.
- iii. Rodents euthanized in the laboratory:
  - 1. Place animal carcasses in an opaque bag, then in a biohazard bag if applicable. The bag of carcasses can be temporarily stored in a laboratory freezer. This freezer should be kept clean and not become overfilled.
    - a. When it is time to remove the carcasses from the laboratory freezer, take animals to DLAM and give to a staff member to place it in the carcass freezer, located on the loading dock area.
      - i. Carcass bags need to be placed in a closed transport container
    - b. Only the freight elevator should be used to transport carcasses. If it is out of service, then use the dedicated elevator temporarily assigned for animal use.
  - 2. Carcasses of animals used with hazardous or radioactive materials should be placed in a red biohazard bag and placed in the carcass freezer by DLAM staff. Consult with the Safety Office regarding disposal of this type of waste.
    - a. The bag needs to be labeled with the hazard name, date, and PI name.
    - b. The bag needs to be labeled with a Rad label if applicable.
- iv. Radioactive Carcasses Euthanized in the Small Animal Imaging Suite (RES 080 Suites):
  - 1. Carcasses that both (1) contain radioactive materials and (2) are euthanized in the Small Animal Imaging Suite (RES 080 suites)
    - a. Place carcasses in an opaque bag which should then be placed into a second opaque bag.
    - b. Carcasses must remain within the Small Animal Imaging Core in the designated carcass storage area immediately following euthanasia.
    - c. Carcasses must remain in this secured location until radiation levels have sufficiently decayed to acceptable limits, as determined by Radiation Safety.
    - d. Once cleared for release, the carcasses may be transported to DLAM for placement in the carcass freezer. DLAM personnel will sign the appropriate form documenting retrieval and receipt of the carcass provided by small animal imaging suite research core.
  - v. All carcasses are removed by a third party licensed vendor for final disposition

#### **D. REFERENCES**

- a. [The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(2011\), National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.](#)
- b. [University of North Texas Health Science Center-Biosafety Website](#)