



A. PURPOSE

To standardize the procedures for guillotine maintenance and use.

B. GUIDELINES

Personnel:

IACUC Guidance 201 describes the 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. Sample use/maintenance log available on the IACUC webpage.

Guillotines that are not currently in use should be labeled “not in use”.

C. REFERENCES, MATERIALS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [I-IC-GU-201 Euthanasia by Cervical Dislocation or Decapitation](#)
- [I-IS-FM-019 Guillotine Use and Maintenance Log](#)