Georgia State University  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

It is the responsibility of the Georgia State University (GSU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure judicious and humane use of animals used in its teaching and research programs that is consistent with federal requirements.*

Policy on Isoflurane Euthanasia (using a drop jar)

- Do not perform euthanasia or any other procedure on an animal until a person experienced with the procedure has trained you and you feel confident performing the technique.

- Only one species at a time should be placed into the drop jar, and the drop jar must not be overcrowded. When placed into the drop jar, all animals must have floor space. Euthanasia should always be done in cohorts (awake animals must not be placed in the chamber with anesthetized animals). Chambers should be kept clean to minimize odors that might distress animals prior to euthanasia. Animals must not be euthanized in animal housing rooms, except under special circumstances such as during quarantine for infectious disease agents.

- This drop jar procedure must take place under a fume hood to prevent exposure of personnel to the isoflurane anesthetic. Please note that a biosafety cabinets and animal transfer stations are not appropriate for this use as they will recirculate the isoflurane gas into the room.

- One should place isoflurane onto a cotton ball or gauze pad and establish a mechanism whereby the animal is unable to have direct contact with the cotton ball or gauze pad (an easy way to do this is to place the ball or pad into a tissue cassette).

- Once the animal is anesthetized (no spontaneous movement apart from respirations, no foot withdrawal in response to toe pinches as assessed on all four feet), remove the animal from the drop jar and immediately proceed to perform a secondary method of euthanasia (e.g. bilateral thoracotomy, cervical dislocation, decapitation, or aortic transection). It is imperative that the secondary method of euthanasia be done quickly as the animal, once removed from the drop jar, is able to regain consciousness quickly. Accordingly, only one animal at a time may be removed from the drop jar.

Pertinent Regulations*  
U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training  
Public Health Service Policy  
Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals  
Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and AWA Regulations

IACUC Approval Date:  
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Signature IACUC Chair:  
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Revision Dates:  
[Signature]