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 precision vaporizer)**

- 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 a chamber, and the chamber must not be overcrowded. When placed into the chamber, 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.

- Induce anesthesia in the induction chamber utilizing 3-5% isoflurane (follow the anesthesia machine directions affixed to the anesthesia machine for proper oxygen flow rates, etc).

- 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 induction chamber and place on the nosecone to maintain the anesthetized state and then perform a physical method of euthanasia (e.g. bilateral thoracotomy, cervical dislocation, decapitation, or aortic transection).

- After use, turn off the isoflurane and oxygen and disinfect the anesthetic machine per the DAR SOP posted in the room.

**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:**

**Signature IACUC Chair:**

**Revision Dates:**