

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Carcass Disposal		
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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 assure 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 the Facility Manager for 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 6th 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.

- iii. Rodents euthanized in the laboratory:
 - 1. Place animal carcasses in an opaque bag. 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.
 - 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.

D. REFERENCES

- a. National Research Council. 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>
- b. University of North Texas Health Science Center. (2022) Biological Safety Manual.
<https://www.unthsc.edu/safety/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/UNTHSC-BM-1.6-2022-.pdf>