Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Sharps Disposal		
Document #: 017	**Version #:** 03	
Approved by IACUC Date: February 12, 2020		

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The use of sharp items such as needles, scalpels, razor blades, glass slides, Pasteur pipettes, cover slips, knives, intravenous tubing with attached needles, capillary tubes or similar sharp items is an accepted part of animal research activity. The use of these items presents a potential for accidental cuts, abrasions, self-inoculation and puncture wounds.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Individuals that use sharps in animal research must follow the procedures listed below.
b. Each laboratory will need to order and keep a supply of sharp container boxes.

C. PROCEDURES

a. Sharps used in the vivarium or in the lab must be handled and disposed of appropriately:
    i. Never recap needles.
    ii. Dispose of sharps in FDA-cleared sharps disposal container. The container must be marked, puncture-proof receptacles with the biohazard symbol on the side.
    iii. Convenient disposal containers shall be available in all work areas where sharps are used.
    iv. Full sharps containers, with the lid secured, will be picked up by designated housekeeping staff. Call Custodial Services for pickup.
b. Do not leave needles in the animal room.
c. Do not open scalpel blades, needles, etc. until they are needed.

D. REFERENCES

a. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (2011). Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.
b. University of North Texas Health Science Center Safety Manual