Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Sharps Disposal		
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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

Each individual and laboratory using sharps in animal research must follow the procedures listed below, and will be responsible for ordering and maintaining 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. Do not open scalpel blades, needles, etc. until they are needed.
   ii. Never recap needles.
   iii. Dispose of sharps in FDA-cleared sharps disposal container. The container must be marked, puncture-proof receptacles with the biohazard symbol on the side.
   iv. Convenient disposal containers shall be available in all work areas where sharps are used.
   v. 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.

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