

**SOP No:** AHT 35

**SUBJECT:** Euthanasia of Mice (Cervical dislocation) (June 2015)

**POLICY: -** Operator must be experienced and competent at this technique.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Gloves, eye protection, mask, long-sleeved gown, closed in shoes.

**EQUIPMENT:** None.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Remove mouse from cage and place on the cage lid.
2. Restrain the mouse by grasping the base of the tail with the thumb and forefinger and firmly pressing the fingers down on the back of the mouse. Press downward and outward at the base of the head with the free thumb or thumb and forefinger together.
3. Pull the tail with a quick upwards and outwards motion and the thumb will roll down onto the neck.
4. Ensure that there is a distinct dislocation of the vertebrae of the neck leaving a gap behind the head.
5. Check that the eyes have a "glazed look" and that the pupils are fixed and dilated. Ensure that the heart beat and respiration have ceased.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**DATE ISSUED:** 18.02.2004

**REVISED:** 04.07.2012  
03.06.2015

  
CHAIR OF AEC

**REFERENCES**

1. American Veterinary Medical Association, Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia, JAVMA (1993) 202: 229-249.
2. The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals, 6th Edition. Ed. T.B. Poole, Longman Scientific and Technical, 1998.
3. Recommendations for euthanasia of experimental animals, Report of a Working Party. Reprinted from Laboratory Animals (1996) 30:293-316 and (1997) 31: 1-32.

