

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LABORATORY ANIMAL RESEARCH

SOP No: AHT 58

SUBJECT: Humane euthanasia of pigs up to 50kg in confined pens.

REASON FOR USE: This procedure is used to euthanase pigs at the conclusion of an experimental trial.

POLICY: Operator must be very experienced and competent at this technique

PRECAUTIONS: Overalls, steel-capped boots, gloves, ear protection.
Safety protection glasses
Second operator
Methods of restraint will be dependent upon the size and age of each animal and the pen size available.

EQUIPMENT:

- Sedative for I/M injection
- Injection materials: 20ml luer lock syringe, 50cm injection tubing, 21 gauge needle
- Trolley
- Needle and syringe in Lethabarb bottle
- Extra needle for Lethabarb injection

PROCEDURE:

- Weigh pig or estimate according to average weight at specific age charts.
- Draw sedative into 20ml luer lock syringe and connect to 50cm injection tubing. Attach a 21 gauge needle and secure to the far end of tube.
- Stand in centre of pen and prepare syringe in one hand and needle in other. Quickly insert needle into the muscular neck region (located behind each ear to shoulder blades) and inject the calculated dose. *NOTE: maximum of 12mls in a single injection site. Rotate your position in centre of pen so as to prevent the needle being pulled out as the pig moves.
- Remove needle and exit pen.
- When the pig is sedated (approx 5-15mins), enter pen and move pig onto a pump up trolley and remove from the holding room.*
- Administer lethabarb via the ear vein, dose according to weight (1mL or 325mg/2kg body weight).
- Ensure that the animal is dead before disposing of the carcass.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES