

 <p>THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA CREATE CHANGE</p>	<p>UQ Animal Ethics Committee - Standard Operating Procedure Institutional author: School of Veterinary Science, UQ VETS CAN_008 – Euthanasia of Dogs AEC Reviewed & Approved: 14/12/2022</p>	<p>Version #1</p> <hr/> <p>Page 1 of 2</p>
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CAN_008 – Euthanasia of Dogs

I. OBJECTIVE

To promote safe and humane euthanasia on dogs via intravenous lethal injection.

II. COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

- As indicated within “conditions” (see the document’s footer), this procedure must only be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a trained and competent person.
- All S4 drugs used must be recorded and signed for in the Scheduled Drug Usage Record
- Anaesthetic induction agents, such as thiopental and propofol, may be used immediately prior to injection of Lethabarb® to supplement euthanasia. This should only be performed under the direction of a registered veterinarian.
- Relative to animal ethics applications, when using this SOP, the following must be detailed and justified in the individual ethics application: any intended variations to this SOP.

III. EQUIPMENT

- Collar, lead, and any other equipment required for safe, low-stress restraint
- 2 personnel (operator and technician)
- Personal protective equipment: e.g. nitrile gloves
- Needles and syringes (of appropriate volume)
- Sterile normal saline (IV flush solution)
- Pentobarbitone sodium (Lethabarb® 325 mg/mL)
- Indwelling intravenous catheter
- Disinfectant (e.g. 70% ethanol solution)
- Disposal body bag/bin (location specific)
- Carcass/ bag labels (location specific)

IV. PREPARATION

- 1) Draw up an appropriate volume of the euthanasia solution, relative to the animal’s weight;
1mL Lethabarb® / 2kg body weight
- 2) Place an indwelling intravenous catheter, as per [CAN_007 Intravenous Catheterisation in Dogs](#), if one is not already in place.

V. PROCEDURE

- 1) Appropriately restrain the dog (secure, but low stress), as per [CAN_001 Handling of Dogs](#).
- 2) Flush the IV line with at least 2mL normal saline to ensure its patency.
If the IV line is compromised it should be replaced, as per [CAN_007 Intravenous Catheterisation in Dogs](#), before proceeding.

<p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigators named in an animal ethics application, relative to this SOP, must be competent to implement the SOP • Any variation to this SOP must be described in the relevant animal ethics application • If this SOP has not been reviewed and approved by a UQ AEC within the last three years it is no longer valid and cannot be used in animal ethics applications until reappraised (see “AEC Reviewed/Approved” date in this document’s header).
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- 3) Insert the needle-syringe containing the euthanasia solution (Lethabarb®) directly into injection port (attached to intravenous catheter) and slowly inject the euthanasia solution.
An injection port should be applied if there is not already one in place.
- 4) Again, flush the IV line with at least 2mL normal saline.
- 5) Confirm that the animal has died: cessation of rhythmic breathing, cessation of heart beat, absent palpebral and corneal reflexes, pupillary dilation, absent jaw and tongue tone and mucous membrane pallor/cyanosis
- 6) Once pronounced deceased, gently place the carcass into the appropriate disposal bag/bin.
- 7) As appropriate for the location and setting, ensure the carcass is accurately labelled.
- 8) Transfer the disposal bag/bin to the appropriate location (e.g. designated cold room) for storage or disposal.

Version #	Reviewing AEC (note: all other relevant AECs ratify the approval)	AEC Review Date	Approval To Date
Previous version details: SOP No: CSCT-010; Subject: Euthanasia - Canine; March 2010; Clinical Studies Centre.			
1	PCA	14/12/2022	14/12/2025

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