Title: Euthanasia for Avian Species

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum standards for euthanasia for avian species in the lab animal setting or poultry in the agricultural setting.

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for avian species must meet or exceed these minimum requirements for euthanasia based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Agriculture Animals in Research and Teaching, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.

III. Procedure:


The agents and methods of euthanasia appropriate for poultry and other avian species are available in the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition or subsequent revisions of that document. Euthanasia is the procedure of killing an animal rapidly, painlessly, and without distress.

Euthanasia must be carried out by trained personnel using acceptable techniques in accordance with applicable regulations and policies. The method used should not interfere with postmortem evaluations. Proper euthanasia involves skilled personnel to help ensure that the technique is performed humanely and effectively and to minimize risk of injury to people. Personnel who perform euthanasia must have training and experience with the techniques to be used. The equipment and materials required to perform euthanasia should be readily available, and the attending veterinarian or a qualified animal scientist should ensure that all personnel performing euthanasia have demonstrated proficiency in the use of the techniques selected.
Euthanasia techniques should result in rapid unconsciousness followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest and the ultimate loss of brain function. In addition, the technique used should minimize any stress and anxiety experienced by the animal before unconsciousness. For this reason, anesthetic agents are generally acceptable, and animals of most species can be quickly and humanely euthanized with the appropriate injection of an overdose of a barbiturate. Certain other methods may be used for euthanasia of anesthetized animals because the major criterion (insensibility) has been fulfilled.

Physical methods of euthanasia may be used if persons performing the procedure are properly trained. If physical methods such as cervical dislocation are used, anesthetizing the bird prior to this procedure is recommended. Every attempt should be made to minimize stress to the animal before euthanasia.

Agents that result in tissue residues cannot be used for euthanasia of animals intended for human or animal food unless those agents are approved by the FDA. The carcasses of animals euthanized by barbiturates may contain potentially harmful residues and should be disposed of in a manner that prevents them from being consumed by human beings or animals.

No matter what method of euthanasia is performed, personnel must ensure that death has occurred. Assurance of death may include ascertaining the absence of heartbeat and respiration, lack of corneal or other reflexes, and lack of physical movement. Personnel should be trained on how to assure death in animals.

2013 AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avian Species</th>
<th>Acceptable Methods</th>
<th>Acceptable with Conditions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intravenous Barbiturates</td>
<td>Inhaled anesthetics, CO2, CO, N, r, Cervical dislocation (small birds and poultry), Decapitation (small birds). For poultry, manual blunt force, trauma, electrocution, gunshot, captive bolt alternatives</td>
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