

**CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR ANIMAL CARE AND USE AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON**

**Emergency Contacts**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBERS</b>
Dr. Joe Brague, Director, Loyola Science Center (LSC) Animal Facilities	570-941-4076 (W), 570-220-9530 (C)
Dr. Christopher Howey, IACUC Chair	570-941-7544 (W), 609-413-5942 (C)
Dr. Robert Noto, D.V.M.	570-483-4211 (Dickson City); 540-430-9097 (cell), 570-483-3315 (Throop)
<b><i>24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE</i></b>	540-430-9097
The University of Scranton Police	570-941-7777
Laura Raba, Animal Caretaker and LSC Facilities Manager	570-941-4114 (W); 570-217-6890 (C)
Mr. Rich Trygar Stockroom Supervisor, Chemistry	570-941-7586
Ms. Deb Wardach Laboratory Supervisor, Biology	570-941-7558

**Location of Animals:**

**Loyola Science Center Vivarium (LSC080)**

**Loyola Science Center Aquatics Facility (LSC221)**

**Loyola Science Center, Dr. Farallo’s Office (LSC373)**

**Loyola Science Center, Dr. Howey’s Office (LSC251)**

**Loyola Science Center, Dr. Seid’s Office (LSC274)**

**Loyola Science Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Display Cases (Near LSC221 and access via LSC221)**

**PURPOSE**

This plan is intended to prepare The University of Scranton faculty and staff for a threat or crisis involving The University of Scranton animal care and use programs. The plan sets forth procedures for response should a crisis occur.

**REVIEW**

This plan with policies and procedures for emergency situations will be reviewed and revised semi-annually by The University of Scranton Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) with recommendation for acceptance when presented by the IACUC Administrator to the Assistant CAS Dean, who acts as the Institutional Official (IO).

## **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

Responsible and sound animal care and use programs, properly communicated, reduce the risk but do not eliminate the potential for a crisis involving animal care and use.

The use of animals is necessary for some research and instructional programs, and this necessity carries an obligation for appropriate care and use of involved animals. Therefore, each staff member, student, faculty member, and research investigator are directly responsible to promote and protect animal welfare within the instructional and research programs of the university. This responsibility should be conveyed by example and extends to the education of future employees of the academic community.

All faculty members should be aware of university policies and procedures regarding the use of animals. These policies and procedures for animal use at the University of Scranton are located on the [website](https://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/sub%20pages/IACUC.shtml) (<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/sub%20pages/IACUC.shtml>) for the Office of Research Support and Sponsored Programs (ORSSP), and are written in accordance with the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition.” A copy of this guide can be downloaded [HERE](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf) (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>). The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) should be certain all faculty members (Principle Investigators, or PIs) using animals in teaching or research are informed of the policies and procedures described. Likewise, if staff or students are involved with the care and use of animals, their PI supervisor should make certain they are informed of the animal care and use protocols and appropriately certified to work with animals. A document entitled “Animal Facilities Procedures” is posted in the animal facilities located in Loyola Science Center (LSC) for reference by any person utilizing the facilities.

## **EMERGENCY ANIMAL CARE PRINCIPLES**

In all emergencies, human life and safety will take precedence over animal life. The LSC Animal Facility staff and animal facility users (PIs and students) must not put themselves or their colleagues in danger in order to evacuate animals. The LSC Animal Facility staff and animal facility users will work together with the Facility Manager, Building Manager, and Attending Veterinarian to determine appropriate actions based on the individual emergency situation. In addition, researchers should determine in advance of any emergency situation if unique strains of rodents should be preserved using cryopreservation or other similar techniques. The decision to euthanize animals and the selection of appropriate euthanasia methods requires careful consideration in all scenarios, but the urgency is acute in disaster-related events. Disaster-related events in a research animal setting often cause the loss of room access, environmental control, or safe working conditions which limit animal care and veterinary service support options.

Euthanizing injured or distressed research animals in these situations may be the only way to relieve animal pain and suffering. Direction in this situation is stated in the following excerpt from the [8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Guide for Laboratory Animal Care and Use](#)<sup>1</sup>: “***Animals that cannot be relocated or protected from the consequences of the disaster must be humanely euthanized.***<sup>1</sup>” The [AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia](#)<sup>2</sup> addresses disaster-related instances where deviations from standard euthanasia methods are necessitated with the following statement: “***Under unusual conditions, such as disease eradication and natural disasters, euthanasia options may be limited. In these situations, the most appropriate technique that minimizes human and animal health concerns must be used.***” Euthanasia may be the only management option available to alleviate pain or distress in the aftermath of an animal facility disaster.

The identification, selection, and application of a method of euthanasia which minimizes or removes both human and animal health concerns rests in the professional judgment of the Attending Veterinarian. In a disaster scenario, human safety, the animal species, and the urgency to relieve animal pain and distress outweigh study considerations such as data gathering, sample collection, and experimental endpoints. Consequently, the euthanasia method for a set of study animals based on experimental priorities may not be the appropriate euthanasia method to use on the same set of animals in a disaster event.

Although disaster euthanasia decisions addressing the management of a large population of research animals following a facility disaster or emergency rests with the Attending Veterinarian, the implementation of euthanasia orders will fall to the facility management and staff. In the event of a large-scale disaster, euthanasia of animals may be necessary if it is safe for LSC personnel to access the animals. Euthanasia will be the last resort and will be conducted under the direction of the PIs, Facility Manager, Attending Veterinarian, or IACUC Administrator. Questions concerning emergency animal care may be directed to the Facility Manager, the Attending Veterinarian, or the IACUC Administrator. Injured or affected animals will be triaged by trained animal care personnel and/or emergency veterinary staff as long as human safety is not compromised. Those animals deemed savable will be treated on site if possible, and/or transported to suitable, predetermined locations for further care. Those with life-threatening injuries or conditions not amenable to recovery will be humanely euthanized on site by trained personnel as described below in the section titled “EUTHANASIA OF RESEARCH OR TEACHING ANIMALS”.

### **CRISIS RESPONSE**

In the event a crisis (loss of power, failure of temperature and/or humidity control systems, break-in, vandalism in animal facilities, or any other emergent situation) occurs, the Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, Dr. Robert Noto, and/or the Director of the Animal Facilities, Dr. Joe Brague, and/or IACUC Chair Dr. Christopher Howey and/or the LSC Animal Caretaker and Facilities Manager, Laura Raba should be contacted. During business hours, the initial contact may be made with the Director of the Animal Facilities or Facility Manager and Animal Caretaker who will then contact Dr. Noto.

If the Veterinarian and/or the Director of the Animal Facilities determine(s) that removal of the animals and transfer to another functioning facility is in the animals’ best interests, the affected animals will be moved to the veterinary office of Dr. Robert Noto, located at 100 Dunmore Street, Throop, PA 18512 for temporary housing. Transportation will be carried out using the protocols set out in the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition” to ensure animal safety and well-being. If any of these animals are under the purview of the USDA, the University’s USDA/APHIS Animal Care contact, Dr. Kira Wagner ([AnimlaCare@usda.gov](mailto:AnimlaCare@usda.gov); 1-970-494-7478), will be contacted and informed of the transportation of the animals.

### **EUTHANASIA OF RESEARCH AND/OR TEACHING ANIMALS**

Consultation with the Attending Veterinarian may not always be possible. If consultation is not possible, the Attending Veterinarian has pre-approved the euthanasia methods described below if it becomes necessary to euthanize colonies of animals. Trained personnel will accomplish euthanasia (Attending Veterinarian, PIs, Animal Caretaker, IACUC Chair, or Facility Manager). CO<sub>2</sub> or inhalant anesthetic euthanasia of rodents, reptiles, and birds in air-tight enclosures will

be utilized if possible. MS-222 (tricaine) will be utilized for fish and frogs if possible. Choice of anesthesia for other animals rests with the Attending Veterinarian and his recommendations should be sought at the time of protocol approval.

### **REPORTING RABIES OR SUSPECTED RABIES CONCERNS**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends if you have been bitten, scratched, or have had contact with the saliva of an animal that you believe is rabid, wash the wound immediately and call your doctor. Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, and foxes. The primary contact for rabies or suspected rabies is 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3254).

### **REPORTING ANIMAL CONCERNS**

It is especially important to be responsive to concerns raised about animal care and use within the university. All such concerns expressed by faculty, staff, students, or the public should be reported to any IACUC member, the University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, Dr. Robert Noto and/or Director of the Animal Facilities, Dr. Joe Brague and/or Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Dr. Christopher Howey. Please see Reporting Animal Concerns at the University of Scranton IACUC website for more information.

### **FACILITY SECURITY**

All persons using animal facilities are responsible for security in those facilities. Doors are to be locked during off duty hours. Any person not recognized as having legitimate business in an animal facility should be challenged. University Police should be called if there is any problem regarding unauthorized presence in an animal facility.

No statements are to be issued to the media without the approval of the Institutional Official (IO) Dr. David Dzurec, Associate Dean, or Dr. David Marx, Acting Provost for Academic Affairs.

### **REFERENCES**

- <sup>1</sup>*Guide for Laboratory Animal Care and Use*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, NAS Press, 2011.  
Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Rodent Feti and Neonates, *NIH-ARAC*, Revised 09 Dec 2020.  
<sup>2</sup>*AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*, AVMA Press, 2020.  
Guidelines for Euthanasia of Rodents Using Carbon Dioxide, *NIH-ARAC*, Revised 22 Jun 2016.

cc: Dr. David Marx, Acting Provost/SVPAA  
Dr. David Dzurec, Associate Dean CAS  
Mr. Donald Bergmann, Director of Public Safety  
Mr. James Caffrey, Dir. Operations and Maintenance  
Dr. Janice Voltzow, Biology Chair  
Mr. Michael Baltrusaitis, Health and Safety Officer  
Ms. Brooke Leonard, Director of ORSP

Ms. Laura Raba, Animal Caretaker  
Dr. Joan Wasilewski, Chemistry Chair  
Dr. Carolyn McNamara Barry, Dean CAS  
Ms. Meg Hambrose, ORSP  
Mr. Richard Trygar, Chem. Stockroom  
Ms. Deb Wardach, Biology Lab Manager