

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

Emergency Contacts

NAME	PHONE NUMBERS
Dr. Gary Kwiecinski, Director, Loyola Science Center (LSC) Animal Facilities	570-941-6387 (W), 570-563-2967 (H) 570-504-6901 (C)
Dr. Robert Noto, D.V.M.	570-483-1930; 540-430-9097
<i>24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE</i>	570-483-1930
Vince Marshall, Ph.D., LSC Facilities Manager	570-941-5439 (W); 570-903-0878 (C)
Ms. Renee Giovagnoli Biology Stockroom Supervisor	570-941-7558

PURPOSE

This plan is intended to prepare The University of Scranton (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 policy and procedure will be reviewed semi-annually by the The University of Scranton Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) with recommendations for revision presented by the IACUC Administrator to the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, 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 is 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 for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), <http://matrix.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/sub%20pages/IACUC.shtml> 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 obtained from Dr. Gary Kwiecinski, located on the second floor of the Loyola Science Center (LSC), room 292. 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 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 (Rene Giavognoli) 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 [8th Edition of the Guide for Laboratory Animal Care and Use](#)¹: “*Animals that cannot be relocated or protected from the consequences of the disaster must be humanely euthanized.*”¹” The [AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia](#)² 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 LSCAF

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, (570-483-1930; 540-430-9097) and/or the IACUC Administrator/Director of the Animal Facilities, Dr. Gary Kwiecinski at (570-941-6387, 504-6901) should be contacted. During business hours, the initial contact may be made with the Facility Manager and Animal Caretaker, Dr. Vincent Marshall at (570) 941-5439, who will then contact Drs. Noto and/or Kwiecinski.

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 1534 Scranton-Carbondale Highway, Dickson City, PA 18519 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. Kathy Campitelli, 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 Administrator, or Facility Manager). CO₂ or inhalant anesthetic euthanasia of rodents and birds in air-tight enclosures will be utilized if possible. MS-222 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 responded to and reported to the University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, Dr. Robert Noto and/or Administrator of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee/Director of the Animal Facilities, Dr. Gary Kwiecinski at (570) 941-6387 or (570) 504-6901 and/or the Animal Facilities Caretaker and Manager, Dr. Vincent Marshall at (570) 941-5439.

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. Sunil Ahuja, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, or Dr. Joseph Dreisbach, Provost/Senior VP for Academic Affairs.

REFERENCES

¹*Guide for Laboratory Animal Care and Use*. 8th Edition, NAS Press, 2011.

Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Rodent Feti and Neonates, *ARAC*, Revised 9 Mar 2011.

²*AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*, AVMA Press, 2013.

Guidelines for Euthanasia of Rodents Using Carbon Dioxide, *ARAC*, Revised 12 Jan 2010.