

Standard Operating Procedure

Obtaining Veterinary Care for Sick or Injured Animals and After Hours Veterinary Support

Biomedical Research Support Facility (BRSF) Normal Business Hours

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Veterinary medical care can be obtained by calling the BRSF @ 248-370-4440 or 248-370-4441.

Weekdays after Hours, Weekends, and Holidays

Veterinary medical care can be obtained by calling the BRSF Manager @ 248-210-8411 or 248-410-0621. The BRSF Manager will contact the appropriate veterinarian.

Purpose

To provide guidance for obtaining veterinary care for sick or injured animals.

The identification of sick animals is everyone's responsibility: Principal Investigators (PI), research staff, students, Biomedical Research Support Facility (BRSF) personnel, etc. BRSF personnel are an excellent resource in identifying sick animals because they are in the animal housing rooms daily and are required to observe the animals for signs of potential illness. They also handle the animals during routine cage changing.

When BRSF personnel identifies a sick or injured animal, they should immediately contact the BRSF Manager, and the PI. Depending on the degree of severity, or if the sick animal requires immediate veterinary care, the BRSF Manager may call the university veterinarian to discuss the circumstances and to determine a course of action.

The following information should be supplied:

- Principal Investigator name
- Room number
- Rack and cage where animal is located within the room
- Species of animal
- Date of birth
- Strain
- Clinical description or symptoms

If the recommended course of action is treatment or monitoring, the BRSF Manager will contact a member of the research lab to discuss treatment options. If the veterinarian deems that immediate treatment is necessary for the health of the animal, initiation of treatment will not be delayed. All treatments will be recorded on the animals' cage card(s) or health record(s).

If the recommended course of action is euthanasia or using the animal experimentally, then this information will be recorded on the animals, cage card(s) or health record(s). Euthanasia will be carried out according to the methods cited in the approved IACUC protocol that the animal is

covered under. Acceptable methods of euthanasia are listed AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition: <https://www.avma.org/kb/policies/documents/euthanasia.pdf>

Euthanizing an Animal on Humane Grounds

The decision to euthanize an animal experiencing unrelieved pain and distress is clearly within the authority of the university veterinarian. This authority has been granted to the attending veterinarian by the Institutional Official (IO) and the IACUC of this institution. If the principal investigator and veterinary staff cannot reach consensus on treatment, the veterinarian has the authority to treat the animal, remove it from the experiment, institute appropriate measures to relieve severe pain or distress, or perform euthanasia if necessary. Consideration of the animal and relief of suffering is a basic tenet of US Government Principle VI and should be the default in decisions concerning euthanasia. Maximizing the data obtained to the detriment of the animal because of budgetary limitations is unacceptable.