

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee		
Title: Waste Management Plan for Animal Research		
Policy#: IACP 010	Date in Effect: 02/08/08	
Rev #: 01	Rev Date: 05/08/15	
Rev #: 02	Rev Date: 02/23/2023 by Laboratory Safety and Hazardous Materials Management	
In Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescinded <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Rescinded:	

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

The Office of Laboratory Safety & Compliance - Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) routinely monitors laboratories known to generate research animal carcasses / associated animal waste. HMM is responsible for final transfer and disposal of animal carcasses / animal waste through a waste disposal contract. The Principal Investigator (PI) for each laboratory is responsible for packaging, transferring, and storing the animal carcasses / animal waste for disposal.

B) PROCEDURES

1) Preparation of Animal Carcasses /Animal Waste for Disposal

Depending on the biological level of containment where each animal species is housed, the following procedure will be followed prior to disposal of the animal carcasses / tissue waste:

- a) Animals housed at ABSL-3/BSL-3 containment: Any animal carcasses / animal waste that is infectious or contaminated with organisms or toxins handled at an ABSL-3/BSL-3 level of containment must undergo steam sterilization at a sufficient time and temperature to destroy any infectious agents in the waste (“autoclaved”).
- b) Animals housed at ABSL-2/BSL-2 or ABSL-1/BSL-1 containment: Any animal carcasses / animal waste that is infectious or contaminated with organisms or toxins handled at an ABSL-2/BSL-2, or non-infectious ABSL-1/BSL-1 level of containment are to follow directions in “*Disposal Procedures of Animal Carcasses / Animal Waste*” below.

NOTE: PI should consult with the Biosafety Officer if the need to autoclave is indicated.

- c) Any other methods approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services and generally recognized as effective may be used to treat the waste if prior approval is obtained from the BSO or HMM Manager.

2) Disposal Procedure of Animal Carcasses / Animal Waste

After appropriate disinfection treatment as referenced in step 1 – *Preparation...*, animal carcasses are to be packaged for disposal of as follows:

- a) Animal carcasses / animal waste generated from the ABSL-3/BSL-3 will be bagged and then boxed by the researcher and put into a red bag lined, biohazard box container provided by HMM for disposal. The researcher will submit a biological waste request form via <https://utsa.bioraft.com>. The completed form is taped to the outside of the box, and the box labeled for incineration, which is moved to the ABSL-3/BSL-3 lab storage area pending pick up.
- b) All other laboratories generating animal carcasses / animal waste must seal the waste in an appropriate heavy-duty, clear plastic bag tagged with the PI name and laboratory location (bldg/room) on the outside of the bag. When transporting carcass bags, ensure these are covered and hidden from general public.
Laboratory personnel will transfer the bags from the lab to the designated freezer.

3) Collection and Final Disposal of Animal Carcasses / Animal Waste

After the carcasses and / or animal waste is properly packaged and placed in the appropriate holding area pending pick up, the following pick up and disposal process is followed by HMM:

- a) The Waste generated from the ABSL-3/BSL-3 labs will be picked up by HMM staff as requested by biological waste request form and routed for incineration (see above).
- b) HMM staff will pick up animal carcasses / animal waste bags every Thursday, placing the bags in boxes marked with the following information:
 - (1) Location of freezer
 - (2) Date of collection
 - (3) “Incineration” label

- c) Once a week an approved biological waste disposal contractor collects all animal carcasses / animal waste generated by The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The contractor generates a waste manifest, indicating the number of boxes collected for treatment, which is signed by an approved representative of HMM. A copy of the manifest is kept by the department for 5 years.