

## Guidelines for the Humane Euthanasia of **ADULT Rodents** Utilizing CO<sub>2</sub>

### General considerations:

- Animals must be euthanized in their home cage in a familiar group when possible.
- Cage density must not exceed housing space requirements.
- Transport animals to procedure room in a quiet and stress free manner.
- Keep other animals away from those being euthanized to avoid stress pheromones.
- Euthanasia **MUST** be performed via the method described in the IACUC-approved *Proposal*.

### Euthanasia of ADULT Rats and Mice (21 days of age and greater) with CO<sub>2</sub>

1. Remove the cage lid and replace it with the Plexiglass plate attached to the CO<sub>2</sub> flow meter.
2. Set the CO<sub>2</sub> flow meter as follows:

Cage Type	CO <sub>2</sub> flow meter setting
<b>All Mouse Cages</b>	<b>3 liters per minute</b>
<b>All Rat Cages</b>	<b>10 liters per minute</b>

3. Maintain CO<sub>2</sub> level for at least 1 minute after respiratory arrest
4. **Death must be confirmed**. A secondary physical method of euthanasia must be performed. Acceptable methods include:
  - a. Cervical dislocation (rodents less than 200 grams)
  - b. Bilateral thoracotomy
  - c. Exsanguination or vital organ removal
  - d. Decapitation
  - e. Perfusion
5. Place animal carcass in bags, label, and place in the freezer
6. Turn off CO<sub>2</sub> meter and wipe off the Plexiglass plate
7. Return lid to top of cage and place it on the rack for dirty cages