

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

BUACC-SOP-03 Avian Euthanasia

The present SOP has been developed to outline proper euthanasia technique for avian species.

1. Materials
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examination gloves 2. 10% bleach solution 3. Alcohol based hand sanitizer 4. Leather gloves (if needed) 5. Inhalant agent (isoflurane)
2. Minimum Qualifications/ Training for PI and/or lab technician
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous field sampling experience; 2. Previous experience handling/extracting fish; 3. McGill Wildlife Animal Care Course
3. Minimum Qualifications/ Training for students
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classroom lesson on the above for students
4. Procedure
A. Inhalant agents (1) (for birds over 2kg)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isoflurane is to be used in conjunction with a plastic bag/clear chamber 2. The anaesthesia shall continue until endpoints are reached <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Lack of response to limb stimulus II. Lack of respiratory response III. Lack of corneal reflex 3. The chamber (if used) shall be sanitized after each use 4. Should be followed by cervical dislocation to ensure death
B. Physical methods (2) (for birds under 2kg)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The bird shall first be anaesthetised using isoflurane 2. Bird shall be restrained and a trained researcher shall perform cervical dislocation
C. Verification of death by
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Absence of movement 2. Absence of respiratory/ cardiac activity for at least 3 minutes 3. Absence of eye and toe pinch reflex

5. Safety

1. After any handling of birds clothing and hands must be washed
2. Any avian fluids that land on to a porous surface will be bleached using a 10% bleach solution
3. Persons who are or may be pregnant or who may have a compromised immune system should contact Human Resources **prior** to handling animals/ cleaning habitat/aquaria and or participating in field studies where they may come into direct contact with animals. **No** person who is or may be pregnant or who may be immuno compromised will be required to handle animals or come into contact with untreated animal waste/habitat bedding.

5. SOP Revision History

These Standard Operating Procedures were last revised and approved by Bishop's University's Animal Care Committee on January 14, 2019.

References

Inhalant, Physical Methods, Verification of death-McGill University. Standard Operating Procedure: #304 Avian Euthanasia. 2008.http://www.mcgill.ca/research/sites/mcgill.ca.research/files/304-avian_euthanasia.pdf

Physical Methods- Canadian Council on Animal Care. Canadian Council on Animal Care in Science. 2010. http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/rschoversight/animals/docs/2013_AVMA_Guidelines.pdf