



Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

SUDDEN DEATH

Number: TEC 18

Version: 1.2

Date: 01/10/2008

Aim/Purpose: To describe the appropriate steps in determine the cause of sudden death in experimental animal.

Users are responsible for the costs associated with the transportation of the animal carcasses and autopsy performed on the animal carcasses at the Animal Health Laboratories.

1. All deaths must be recorded in the Log Out books kept for each room. Any death (defined as one not anticipated and evidenced in the original application) must be reported in the animal room daybook.
2. The animal carcass shall be bagged and kept in the fridge (2 – 8 °C) immediately after discovery.
3. Inform the animal facility manager on the same day and the principal investigator to decide whether a necropsy is required in-house or if a necropsy* at the Animal Health Laboratories, Western Australia Department of Agriculture and Food, South Perth, is required.
4. Immediately notify the Animal Ethics Committee using the adverse event form, and advise whether a necropsy has been arranged. A completed adverse event form with the necropsy results by the user must be submitted to the chairman of AEC at the earliest possible time.

Note for field animal users: If a sudden death was recorded during field trip. A gross necropsy must be performed by a veterinarian, veterinary scientist, or the next most experienced person on the trip. A completed adverse event form with photographic evidence (recommended) must be submitted to the chairman of AEC at the earliest possible time.

Please visit the following link

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/animal-health-laboratories-overview?page=0%2C0>

for the latest Animal Health Laboratories service manual and submission form.



*: If the gross necropsy does not reveal cause of death, then histopathology analysis will be required on the major organs such as, liver, kidney, small intestine, colon and possibly brain.

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Reviewed:

DATE	15/4/14	3/05/16							
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