



# University of Connecticut Health Center

Office of the  
Animal Care **MEMORANDUM**

To: Investigators using research laboratory animals

From: Dr. Joseph Lorenzo  
Chair, UCHC IACUC

Re: The required use of the Euthanex® CO<sub>2</sub> regulator system in CO<sub>2</sub> assisted euthanasia

Date: November 25, 2013

Because we received numerous questions and concern about my letter of November 7, 2013, regarding the required use of the Euthanex® regulator system in CO<sub>2</sub> assisted euthanasia, the IACUC revisited this issue during its November meeting and made the following amendments to its policy.

The IACUC will allow the use of any regulator system **that meets all of the following conditions:**

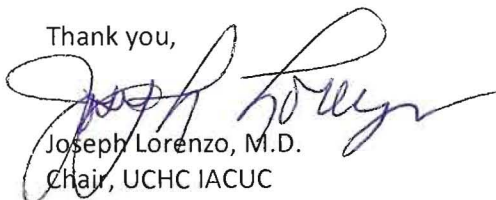
- 1) The system must be AVMA compliant;
- 2) The system must regulate a precise control of CO<sub>2</sub> flow;
- 3) The system must be calibrated specifically for CO<sub>2</sub> gas; **and**
- 4) The flow rate must be set by the factory and not be alterable by the user.

The IACUC is aware that having the flow rate set by the factory may be an additional charge. It is an additional charge for the Euthanex® system. However, the additional charge for the Euthanex® system is being absorbed by the Center for Comparative Medicine. This will not be the case if another system is purchased by an investigator.

All compliant systems for CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia must be in place by January 1, 2014. IACUC members will be inspecting all laboratories and areas where CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia is being performed to ensure that the regulator system meets the *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition*.

If a pre-set, appropriate regulator system is not purchased and in place in investigator's laboratories by January 1, 2014, then CO<sub>2</sub>-assisted euthanasia of laboratory animals may not be performed in that laboratory. Rather, the euthanasia stations within CCM-maintained animal areas must be used. Failure to follow this rule will be considered a reportable violation of PHS Policy.

Thank you,



Joseph Lorenzo, M.D.  
Chair, UCHC IACUC

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