MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT USED FOR DECAPITATION

Personnel responsible for performing euthanasia by decapitation must be properly trained and proficient in carrying out the technique. Equipment commonly used: Guillotine, scissors, and sharp blades.

Recommendation of the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia; “Equipment used to perform decapitation should be maintained in good working order and serviced on a regular basis to ensure sharpness of the blades.”

IACUC Guidelines for Maintaining Decapitation Equipment:

- After each use, the unit should be wiped clean of any biological materials. The unit should be washed in hot, soapy water, and then towel dried.

- After cleaning, a few drops of light machine oil should be applied to the blade surfaces and blade channels. The blades then should be run together several times to spread the oil evenly over all moving surfaces.

- Blades should be replaced or sharpened regularly, depending on frequency of use.

- The following technique is recommended to assess the sharpness of a guillotine: A sharp guillotine is sharp enough if it will cut a piece of paper, without dragging it between the blades, sticking, or tearing.