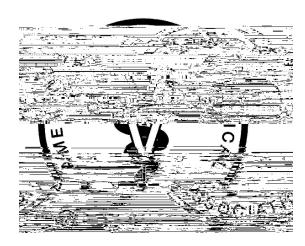
# AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia

(Formerly Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia)

**June 2007** 



<u>Caution</u> - The AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (formerly the 2000 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia) have been widelynisinterpreted. Please note the following:

- The guidelinesare in no way intended to be used for human lethal injection.
- The application of a barbiturate, paralyzing agent, and potassium chloride delivered in separate syringes or stages (the common meth**us**ed for human lethal injection) is not cited in the report.
- The report never mentions pancuronium bromide or Pavulon, the paralyzing agent used in human lethal injection.

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## AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia

## **PREFACE**

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u s t i o n m b e C O i l i n d e n c У 1 e W t h p r O b m S s u c h a s р r a t e c o v i i i d e q a c h e n g n a u o 1 i n g i d e i n a d e q u a t e c O n t T h fore, i m e r e t q u p e e d C O i c l i n d e o m r e S n p У å 8<sup>4</sup> y % Cb I m s e y and Oy R n a S t u a p o 1 a S e d g u i n e a i g s t 0 c c u a n d d e a t h o c c u r r e d  $e^{-8}$   $ha^{-3}$   $an^{9}$  $\operatorname{sd}^0$ i d b e e n u s d t o m o n o  $\mathbf{X}$ e 1 a T 1 h c h i n c h i S e S e a n i m n g c e h i e d 2 m i n b r e a t a s i n n 5 t i t o 7 m i n u t e s n g i I d e a l u a t i n g t h a S t u y v o f d o g s h t e r i t i c s a r a c S 1 9 **d** 5 h a ď ck. na on td dD ea tl el na im ir ne 100 lu

# NONINHALANT PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS

preceded by gasping, muscle spasms, and vocalizationarrest and deat The potassium ion is cardiotoxic, and Recommendations Chloral hydrate isconditional rapid intravenous or intracardiac administration of 2 to ly acceptable for euthanasia of large animals only whemmol/kg of body weight will cause cardiac arrest. administered intravenously, and only after sedation to his is a preferred injectable technique for euthanasia decrease the aforementioned undesirable side effects. livestock or wildlife species to reduce the rief tox-Chloral hydrate is not acceptable for dogsats, and other small animals because the side effects may be severe, reactions can be aesthetically objectionable, and other products are better choices.

#### T-61

T-61 is an injectable, nonbarbiturate, noarcotic mixture of 3 drugs used for euthanasia. Seedrugs provide a combination of general anesthetic, curari form, and local anesthetic actions:61 has been with drawn from the market and is no longer manufactured or commercially available in the United States. It is available in Canada and other coties. T-61 should be used only intravenously and at carefully monitored rates of injection, because there is some question as to the differential absorption and onset of action of the active ingredients when administered by other routes.

#### TRICAINE METHANE SULFONATE (MS 222, TMS)

MS 222 is commercially available as tricaine methane sulfonate (TMS), which can be used for the euthanasia of amphibians and fish. Tricaine is a benzoic acid derivative and, in water of low alkalinity (< 50 mg/L as CaC3): the solution should be buffered with sodium bicarbonate.104 A 10 g/L stock solution can be made, and sodium bicarbonate added to saturation, resulting in a pH between 7.0 and 7.5 for the solution. The stock solution should be stored in a dark brown bottle, and referated or frozen if possible. The solition should be replaced monthly and any time a brown color is observed.105 For euthanasia, a concentration 250 mg/L is recommended and fish should be left in this solution for at least 10 minutes following cesiscent of opercular movement. 104 In the United States, there is a 21-day withdrawal time for MS 222; therefore, it is not appropriate for euthanasia of animals intended for food.

## POTASSIUM CHLORIDE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRIOR GENERAL ANESTHESIA

Although unaccepable and condemned when used in unanaesthetized animals, the use of a supersat urated solution of potassium chloride injected intra venously or intracardially in an animal under general anesthesia is an acceptable method to produce cardiac

#### MACERATION

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#### ADJUNCTIVE METHODS

S t u n n i n g a n d p i t h i n g , w l o s s o f c o n s c i o u s n e s s b T h e r e f o r e , t h e s e m e t h o d j u n c t i s o u n c w h i at sh po ht ah re mr a p c r o o - c l o g i c a g e n t s , e x s a n g u i n n a t i z e t h e a n i m a l .

#### Exsanguination

r i n W h 1 t c e t r a e r t n n o S  $\mathbf{S}$ m e a n S o f e u t h n a i 1 i b h d m t a e m e t o

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### **EQUINE EUTHANASIA**

e n t b i 1 b a r t a f o h i b e t c O c e r e q i n u i u m e O f S O 1 u t O n m h e e p 1 0 u c a t t r a c T d u r e f a c i 1 p e f i b 1 o r a c t o u X r a m Z i e a n 1 h co a n o r a p d b d m n i e r e u t t h e c i o 0 n S O u S n e i d i r c u 1 a t 0 n a n m a У r m u c u 1 a r a c t i v i t n d a a У r o i t a n g o n i t d a e n e i c a g  $\mathbf{o}$ n i  $\mathbf{S}$ t S m y g i a n e m e r g e n У i f e u h n a o a h S e a a О r k m У b d i f f h 1 f e 1 e i m r t r a r g a n a o 1 a n m a m i g h t ca u S e i n j u b d c 1 d f e e t i V e o u r a a 1 b n m a c a n e i V e n a n e u g i 1 1 i u h a S u cc n y c h 0 n a i Z e d W i t h a n r o n t. a p p p r m 1 c a n b e t r 1 1 i h o u t S u f f i c i e n t a n e W h n a a h o d s , i n c 1 1 m e t i c a d n d t i O n a 1 1 У

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#### ANIMALS INTENDED FOR HUMAN OR ANIMAL FOOD

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gunshot or penetrating **pti**ve bolt followed by exsanguination.

#### Birds

Many techniques discussed previously timese guidelinesare suitable for euthanasia of captive birds accustomed to human contact. Freeging birds may be collected by a number of methods, including nets and ive traps, with subsequent euthanasia. For cellec tion by firearm, shotguns are recommended. The bird should be killed outright by use of ammunition loads appropriate for the species to be collected. Wounded birds should be killed quickly by appropriatecteriques previously described. Large birds should diresthetized prior to euthanasia, using general athesics.

Amphibians, Fish, and Reptiles
Euthanasia of ectothermic animals must take into
account differences in their metabolism, respi(I)-47(y)-524,andanimaie550ndeadd

a n s , f i s h M o s t a m p h i b i b e u t h a n a t i z e d y c r a n i a 1 y decapitatio n p i t h i e r i n g h i n a l c o t e S p i s i v i f f c i t h n g a n e e t p h S . D h m a n o t t r m e a t 0 e y n d s p h b i i n a 1 c o r d r a n a 1 i n h i f i t h n g 0 t e S p a c O r i t a t i o n a n d p i t h i n g O f t h P i i p r 0 c e d u r e t h n g r e q u b y h O u 1 d O n 1 У b e d o e t r a n S S t f r e i f g i t n r O S i h e O a m h d l i b t m i n e s k i n d a y g k f 1 i t e n e c e X e d Cooling— I h S b n s u g g e s t e d t a e e h o d s o f e h S i c a 1 m e t u t h y p 1 i n t o 4 C w i 1 1 d e c r e a o o g c g , b u t t h e r e i s n lh a n d l i n

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Appendix 2—Acceptable agents and methods of euthanasia A c c e p t a b l e a g e n t s a n d m e t h o

	Age	ent		С	Classifi	icati	on	<u> </u>	Mod	le of	f actio	n.		Ra	pidity	у				ase c					fety f			Sp	ecies	s suit	abilit	ty		Effica com	•			
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Agent Classification	Mode of action Rapidity	Ease of Safety for performance personnel	Species suitability Efficacy and comments
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Appendix 3—Conditionally acceptable agents and methods of euthanasia  $C \ o \ n \ d \ i \ t \ i \ o \ n \ a \ l \ l \ y \ a \ c \ c \ e \ p \ t \ a \ b \ l \ e \ a \ g$ 

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		Agent Classificatio						ion	М	ode	of a	actio	n	R	apid	lity			р		ase orma		Э			afet; erso				Sp	ecies	suita	abili	ty	I	Effic con	-				
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Appendix 4—Some unacceptable agents and methods of euthanasia S o m e u n a c c e p t a b l e a g e n t s

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В	u	r	n	i	n	g				С	h	e	m	i	c	a	1	0	r	t	h	e	r	m	a	1	b	u
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С	h	1	0	r	0	f	0	r	m	С	h	1	0	r	0	f	0	r	m	i	S	a	k	n	0	W	n	h
С	у	a	n	i	d	e				С	у	a	n	i	d	e	p	0	S	e	S	a	n	e	X	t	r	e
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			A	Agent	or met	thod												Со	mmen	nts								
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S	t	u	n	n	i	n	g			S	t	u	n	n	i	n	g	0	n	S	С	e	n	V	u	T	d	][

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