

HOW TO USE THE CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) EUTHANASIA CHAMBER*

DLAM procedure rooms have designated CO₂ euthanasia chambers

1. Place the Euthanex stainless steel lid over the plastic cage. The lid should be connected to a CO₂ tank via a plastic hose.
 - a. Make sure the two holes on the top of the lid are not blocked, as these holes allow air to be pushed out by the heavier CO₂.
 - b. Make sure the plastic cage does not have an automatic watering opening.
2. Turn on the valve located on top of the CO₂ tank and set the flow to 6 PSI by adjusting the regulator valve. Pre-charge the chamber for 30 seconds.
3. Remove each animal from the housing chamber and place into the pre-charged euthanasia chamber. **NEVER PLACE THE ANIMALS INTO THE PRE-CHARGED EUTHANASIA CHAMBER WHILE STILL IN THE HOUSING CHAMBER.** Do not place different animal species in the chamber at the same time. Do not overcrowd the chamber. Each animal should have enough floor space available to lie down.
4. Continue to allow CO₂ to flow into the chamber until animals are fully anesthetized (approximately 3 minutes). **Young animals, knockout mice, and sick animals may take longer to become deeply anesthetized.**
5. To make certain animals are dead, immediately perform a physical method of euthanasia. Note: if performing tissue collection or thoracotomy animals must be deeply anesthetized prior to these procedures. Note: it may take longer to anesthetize sick animals.
6. Place dead animals into a non-PVC containing bag. **DLAM provides these bags in a variety of sizes.** Label the bag with the animal care application number (IACUC ID). Seal the bag securely. Place bag with dead animal(s) into the refuse box in the dead animal cooler or freezer available in each building.
7. Wash the chamber cage bottom after each use.

*This procedure can be adapted for use in investigator laboratories
Approved September 14, 2007, Approved December 12, 2008