

GUIDE FOR NEEDLE SAFETY IN ANIMAL STUDIES

- NEEDLES CONTAMINATED WITH ANIMAL BLOOD OR EXPERIMENTAL SUBSTANCES OR DRUGS MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOU.
- **DO NOT RECAP NEEDLES!** IF NEEDLES MUST BE REUSED, USE A MECHANICAL DEVICE OR A ONE-HANDED RECAPPING TECHNIQUE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY. *REFERENCE: UNC-CH HEALTH AND SAFETY MANUAL.*
- DO NOT REMOVE NEEDLES FROM SYRINGES, BEND, BREAK OR OTHERWISE MANIPULATE NEEDLES.
- DISPOSE OF THE SYRINGE AND NEEDLE DIRECTLY INTO AN APPROVED, PUNCTURE-RESISTANT SHARPS CONTAINER. THESE CONTAINERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC STOREROOM.
- SHARPS CONTAINERS MAY BE TAKEN INTO THE ANIMAL ROOM TO AID PROPER DISPOSAL. PLEASE RETURN IT TO THE PROCEDURE AREA.
- FOR NEEDLES THAT WERE CONTAMINATED WITH INFECTIOUS AGENTS, THE SHARPS CONTAINER MUST BE RED AND BEAR THE UNIVERSAL “BIOHAZARD” SYMBOL, AND THE CONTAINER MUST BE AUTOCLAVED BEFORE DISPOSAL. MAKE SURE TO PUT INDICATOR TAPE OVER THE BIOHAZARD SYMBOL BEFORE AUTOCLAVING. AFTER AUTOCLAVING CONTAINERS CAN BE PUT INTO THE TRASH OR DUMPSTER.
- NEEDLES USED FOR CHEMICAL OR DRUG INJECTIONS CAN BE PUT INTO WHITE/CLEAR, PLASTIC SHARPS CONTAINERS FOR DISPOSAL. THESE CONTAINERS SHOULD NOT HAVE THE “BIOHAZARD” SYMBOL PRESENT AND THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE AUTOCLAVED.

Sharps Disposal Containers

