1. Background Information
   Euthanasia techniques should result in a rapid loss of consciousness followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest and the ultimate loss of brain function. The technique should minimize distress and anxiety prior to loss of consciousness. Animals must be euthanized only by trained personnel using appropriate technique, equipment and agents. This is necessary to ensure a painless death that satisfies research requirements. Death should be induced as painlessly and quickly as possible. The euthanasia method must be appropriate to the species, approved in the animal study proposal and conform to the most recent AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia. Equipment used for decapitation must be kept clean and sharp. Investigators are responsible for ensuring their personnel are trained and familiar with the use and maintenance of the guillotine.

2. Responsibilities
   a. It is the responsibility of investigators to maintain guillotines that are used for decapitation.
   b. It is the responsibility of the investigator to enter required information (see below for detail) into a log book for each guillotine.

3. Definitions
   Guillotine - A machine with a heavy blade sliding vertically in grooves, used to decapitate small rodents.

4. Procedures
   a. Cleaning the guillotine:
      i. After each decapitation, personnel shall rinse and/or wipe down the guillotine and surrounding area to remove all blood and tissue.
      ii. At the end of each day/session of use and before returning the guillotine, investigators or their personnel shall wash the guillotine with soap or detergent and dry it.
   b. Records/Log of cleaning
      i. The cleaning of the guillotine shall be noted in the guillotine log book.
      ii. The number of rodents decapitated shall be noted in the log book by investigators or their personnel.
   c. Testing and sharpening
      i. Before each day’s first use, investigators or their personnel must check the guillotine blade for sharpness using ¼ inch OD vinyl or polyethylene tubing which will be supplied by the Animal Care Facility (ACF). It is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure the guillotine is functioning properly before using it on animals.
ii. If the blade does not cut the tubing cleanly in one attempt, the blade will need to be sharpened before use.

iii. Personnel performing this test must document the test in the log book and whether or not the guillotine “passed”.

iv. If the guillotine does not pass the test, the blades should be sharpened by an outside vendor (Fort Worth Shaver and Appliance at 1900 Montgomery Street, Fort Worth, TX), or the unit should be sent to acquire replacement blades. Contact the ACF Manager to arrange for maintenance. The type and date of maintenance shall be noted in the log book by the ACF Manager.