

University of Vermont

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

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Emergency Evacuations during Animal Surgery Policy

Biomedical research frequently involves surgical and other procedures in animals. If such procedures are underway when evacuation of the laboratory is required for safety reasons, (e.g. fire, gas leak, bomb threat, etc.), human safety must take precedence over potential loss of animal life. In such a situation, all personnel must leave the building immediately. However, it is not acceptable to leave animals unattended in the middle of a procedure. Therefore, unless the animals are able to recover from the procedure (e.g. awaken from anesthesia) safely without pain and distress and in a safe environment (e.g. returned to home cage), they must be euthanized immediately using approved methods.