

Reporting Animal Deaths

At the termination of the research study, all animals must be assigned to one of three categories in the *Animal Care and Use Protocol*:

1. The animals will come through the study unharmed, and then be available either for redistribution or adoption (both of which must be coordinated through the *Office of Animal Care Management*).
2. The animals will be euthanatized.
3. The animals will die prior to euthanasia due to the experimental design. This is termed "death as an endpoint" and requires special justification in order to be approved by the IACUC.

Occasionally, however, an animal falls into a fourth category and dies **UNEXPECTEDLY** prior to collection of useable data. The cause of death may or may not be known, but from a research standpoint these animals have not been utilized as an experimental subject. (Note: animals lost in this way will be more readily credited to the total number of animals approved on the protocol if the *Animal Death, Necropsy Request & Lab Submission* form is completed and is submitted to the *Office of Animal Care Management*). Federal regulations require that animal deaths be tracked and reviewed by the Veterinarian and IACUC. This is also important for the animal program at the University because unexpected animal deaths may be an indicator of health problems in a colony.

Deaths that must be reported

1. Animals that are found dead by a caretaker, technician, investigator, veterinarian, etc. These deaths must be reported if you expected the animal to die and this was stated in the *Animal Care and Use Protocol*. If possible, these animals should be preserved for examination by the Veterinarian by bagging, tagging and placing in a designated refrigerator (please do not freeze).
2. Animals that have to be euthanatized before they can yield usable data for the study.

How to report animals

Complete the *Animal Death, Necropsy Request & Lab Submission Form* (available from the *Office of Animal Care Management*). When completing this form, be sure to do the following:

1. Complete all boxes on the side of the paper labeled "ANL Form".
2. If the death was unexpected or the animal was euthanatized prior to data collection, mark "Yes" to this question on the form.
3. If the death was expected and the protocol specifically addresses the issue of "Death as an endpoint", mark "No" to the question on the form.

Tracking animal deaths

All completed ANL Forms will be submitted to the *Office of Animal Care Management*. The Veterinary Medicine Supervisor will screen ANL Forms and contact the Veterinarian if Veterinary assistance is required e.g. (necropsy, lab work). The data from the ANL form will be entered into the appropriate database. Necropsy, lab findings, diagnoses, etc. will be reported (by verbal and/or written form) to the appropriate individual(s) (usually the investigator that submits the request). A monthly report summarizing animal deaths will be submitted to the IACUC by the *Office of Animal Care Management*.