

**University of Vermont**

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

Approved: 02/28/05

Rereviewed 9/8/08 – no changes

**Emergency Evacuations during Animal Surgery Policy**

Purpose: 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, 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 they must be euthanized immediately using an approved physical means.

Policy: In the event of an emergency requiring immediate evacuation from the laboratory, if an animal is being subject to a procedure and can not be left to recover (e.g. awaken from anesthesia) safely and without pain or distress, the animal must be euthanized using an approved physical means prior to evacuation.