



Use of Pentobarbital Sodium

Purpose:

To provide guidance for the use of a barbiturate, pentobarbital sodium, in the animal facilities by research and veterinary staff. Pentobarbital sodium is a controlled substance used for the euthanasia of animals. Common euthanasia solutions like Beuthanasia-D are a mixture containing pentobarbital sodium.

Precautions:

The following information can be used to complete the Safety section of your animal protocol.

1. Chemical hazard agents – (Identify the category of the chemical):
 - Irritant
 - Reproductive Hazard/Teratogen
 - Carcinogen
 - Toxicant/Toxic Agent
2. Containment preparation – (Containment equipment required for the preparation of the chemical): No special containment needed.
3. Containment animals – (Containment equipment required for chemical administration and handling animals after exposure to the chemical):
 - No special containment needed.
4. PPE needed - (for handling live animals, carcasses or animal waste/dirty bedding):
(*Select the following*)
 - Exam gloves – nitrile
 - Exam gloves – latex
 - Safety glasses/goggles
 - Lab coat or disposable gown
5. Waste Disposal: (disposal of animal waste/dirty bedding from animals after exposure to the chemical) (*Select the following*)
 - No special precautions needed for waste/dirty bedding.
6. Carcass disposal: (Select the following)
 - Pick up by EH&S for incineration
7. Chemical human risk: (Add the following)
Pentobarbital sodium may cause an allergic skin reaction and serious eye irritation. It is suspected of causing cancer and damaging fertility or the unborn child. The chemical causes damage to organs, specifically the central nervous

system. Follow DEA requirements to dispose of unused and expired pentobarbital sodium properly.

References:

“Pentobarbital”, Anna B. Johnson and Nazia M. Sadiq.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK545288/>

“AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition”

<https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Guidelines-on-Euthanasia-2020.pdf>