

Use of Sodium Pentobarbital

Purpose:

To provide guidance for the use of a barbiturate, sodium pentobarbital, in the animal facilities by research and veterinary staff. Sodium pentobarbital is a controlled substance used for the euthanasia of animals.

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):
 - Reproductive Hazard/Teratogen
 - 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)
The chief health hazard associated with overexposures during normal occupational use and handling is irritation of contaminated tissues. Contains material that may cause birth defects based on animal data. Pregnancy category D. Follow DEA requirements to dispose of unused and expired sodium pentobarbital 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>