



## Inspection Report

Portland State University - RGS

1600 SW 4th Ave  
Suite 620  
Portland, OR 97207

Customer ID: **1050**

Certificate: **92-R-0046**

Site: 004

Science, Research and Teaching  
Center

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 22-APR-2025

### 2.31(e)(5)

#### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee recently approved a protocol Biodiversity of Oregon's small mammals in which the description of euthanasia method to be used was unclear. Animal Welfare Act defines euthanasia as the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method that produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress. The protocol intends to identify "species-level differences among .... cottontails in the genus Sylvilagus." "In cottontails, these include conformation of the enamel in lower premolar 3, conformation and disposition of a number of cranial and mandibular foramina and sutures, and pattern of color bands on the hair." The IACUC protocol template asks for the principal investigator to "describe the method of euthanasia and secondary method of euthanasia confirmation, if applicable", as well as references AVMA guidelines for Euthanasia which is left blank for both Sylvilagus bachmani and Sylvilagus nuttallii specimen collection and animal capture/trapping. Under the surgical procedures section the investigator wrote

"Specimens will be collected using .22 caliber steel rounds. Samples will be collected on the euthanized animal taking habitual safety precautions(examination gloves, disinfected stainless steel tools, etc.). Biological tissue samples will be preserved in liquid nitrogen. Specimens will be prepared as standard museum skins + skeletons.

Is this method cited in the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals?

Please cite page or section of the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia applicable to your species:

Provide rationale for method of euthanasia and deviation from the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia "

Sylvilagus bachmani and Sylvilagus nuttalli animal capture/trapping is described below:

"Animal capture will be undertaken by means of .22 rifle. Shots only will be taken if there is no possibility of missing the target, thereby assuring that the animal will not be wounded. Cottontails are notoriously trap-shy; as a result, collecting specimens using this manner is the most effective technique ( It is important for the IACUC to take under consideration that (the investigator) has employed this technique effectively over years and that in that time, using the safety protocols outlined above (only shooting when there is no option to miss) has never missed or wounded an animal.

Is this method cited in the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals?

Please cite page or section of the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia applicable to your species:

Provide rationale for method of euthanasia and deviation from the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia "

Prepared By: KATHARINE FRANK

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

30-APR-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Manager

Date:

30-APR-2025



## Inspection Report

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*Sylvilagus bachmani* and *Sylvilagus nuttallii* euthanasia as a surgical procedure:

"Shooting with a .22 steel round

Is this method cited in the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals?

Yes

Please cite page or section of the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia applicable to your species:

P. 98: S7.6.3.2.2 Physical methods. We need the skull intact to undertake cranial morphometric studies and studies of dental morphology; thus, shots will be to the heart. The kinetic energy of a .22 caliber round on an animal the size of a cottontail assures instant death."

The investigator cites Physical methods, "gunshot is acceptable with conditions, ... provided that bullet placement is to the head (targeted to destroy the brain)." and also acknowledges that "gunshot targeted to the heart (chest) or to the neck (vertebrae with the intent of severing the spinal cord) presents challenges for accurate placement" and "may be considered humane killing, rather than euthanasia"

According to the reference, gunshot as a physical method of euthanasia also requires a high level of skill and appropriate selection of bullet and weapon to ensure the velocity of the projectile is sufficient at the point of impact, which is not well described in the protocol.

Correct by 30 May 2025

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the research integrity office.

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**Prepared By:** KATHARINE FRANK

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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**Species Inspected**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
1050	92-R-0046	004	Science, Research and Teaching Center	22-APR-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000000	NONE	NONE
000000	Total	