

Washington State University
Program of Laboratory Animal Research

POLICY #3: REMOVAL OF ANIMALS AND TISSUE FROM THE VIVARIUM

A. Purpose and Responsibility

The Program of Laboratory Animal Resources (PLAR) is a centralized program at the WSU-Spokane campus. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the movement of animals between the vivarium and laboratory space outside the vivarium. The research staff is responsible for compliance with this policy.

A. Guidelines

The husbandry program at WSU-Spokane is compliant with the following documents:

- USDA Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations
- USDA Policy Manual
- Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals
- The Zebrafish Book: A Guide for the Laboratory Use of Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)
- WSU IACUC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Policies

B. Policy

1. Live animals or entire carcasses are not to be removed from the vivarium. The reasons for this include:
 - a. There is currently no elevator dedicated to the movement of animals. Use of the public elevator exposes non-animal research staff to the animals. Allergens may cause health issues for some persons.
 - b. The laboratories are designed with an open concept. This design presents several potential problems:
 1. Non-animal research staff would be exposed to the animals. Allergens may cause health issues for some persons.
 2. Non-animal research staff may consider the procedures being performed on the animals to be objectionable.
2. Animals are to be euthanized and tissue collected in the vivarium. Several procedure rooms are available for this purpose.
3. The tissue collected may be taken from the vivarium in a closed container.
4. Any remaining tissue must be returned to the freezer located in the vivarium. Tissue must not be disposed of in the regular trash.