

## Animal Experiments Involving Radiation

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### Purpose:

To describe the minimal precautions necessary when using animals in experiments involving radioactive substances.

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### Procedure:

- 1) If "Exposure to Radioactive Material" is indicated on the approved IACUC protocol, the indicated employees are instructed that it is mandatory to participate in the Radiation Safety Training Programs by the Radiation Safety Officer.
- 2) Included in the IACUC protocol form is a section that requires the investigator to check whether or not he/she will be using radioactive materials. If the investigator checks "yes", then the Radiation Safety Officer must be consulted.
- 3) All staff exposed, or potentially exposed, to sources of radiation are monitored by film badge. Monthly reports identify persons who are at increased risk; appropriate follow-up training and monitoring are provided by the Radiation Safety Officer.
- 4) Routine, unannounced inspections by the Nuclear Medicine Service and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ensure compliance with regulations.
- 5) Animals euthanized after administration of radioactive materials may be considered hazardous by the Radiation Safety Officer and must be handled appropriately. Such carcasses are placed in thick plastic bags which are labeled as to contents. The Radiation Safety Officer determines the final disposition of the carcasses.
- 6) Appropriate precautions required when housing animals exposed to radioactive material, (such as handling of animals, bedding, and wastes); must be discussed on a case-by-case basis with the Radiation Safety Officer, Director, ACF and the Principal Investigator. Standard Operating Procedures must be in place prior to initiation of such studies.