



SOP #: 508.01

Title: SOP - Rodent Necropsy

Approvals:

Attending Veterinarian

Date:

10/11/12

Assistant Director LAR

Date:

10/11/12

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this SOP is to establish the proper, complete, and consistent procedure for the necropsy of rats and mice.

2. Responsibility

2.1 This SOP is intended for use by Principal Investigators and Animal Care Facility personnel that genotype mice. Any exemptions to this SOP must be approved by the IACUC prior to their application.

3. Definitions

3.1 Prosector: The individual who performs the necropsy.

3.2 Scribe/Assistant: The individual or individuals who assists the prosector by verifying:

3.2.1 Identity of individual rodents

3.2.2 Accuracy and completeness of necropsy forms

3.2.3 Recording observations, Photographs will be taken at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian or with any unusual findings

4. Guidelines

4.1 Animals must be necropsied within 4 hours following death/discovery if possible.

4.2 Placed in refrigerator until necropsied

4.3 Observations:

4.3.1 General / overall evaluation of condition

4.3.2 Previous medical and study history

4.4 Materials required

4.4.1 Instruments: not limited to

4.4.1.1 Scissors

4.4.1.2 Scalpels / blades

4.4.1.3 Forceps

4.5 Tissue collection

4.5.1 10% Neutral buffered formalin (NBF)

4.5.2 Fixative of choice unless otherwise specified by study director

4.5.3 Volume should be 10 times the volume of the immersed tissue

4.5.4 Leak proof wet tissue container

4.5.5 Size compatible with 10:1 formalin/tissue ratio

4.6 Labels

4.6.1 Animal identification number

4.6.2 Study number

4.6.3 Date

4.7 Necropsy form - descriptions should be

4.7.1 Accurate and brief

4.7.2 Tissues required will be accounted for

4.7.3 Appropriate entries for

- 4.7.4 Tissue examination, saved and/or fixed
- 4.7.5 Assurance of animal identification
- 4.8 Blood sampling (as indicated by study protocol)
 - 4.8.1 Purple top tube (EDTA)-whole blood/plasma
 - 4.8.2 Red/Grey top tube or microtainer (serum separator)-serum
 - 4.8.3 Red top tube (plain) or centrifuge tube – serum
 - 4.8.4 Syringe – determined by amount needed
- 4.9 Abdominal cavity
 - 4.9.1 Remove abdominal organs: as indicated by study protocol.
 - 4.9.2 Animal with tumors may indicate weighing and measurement of tumors.
 - 4.9.2.1 Place tumor on inverted Petri dish.
 - 4.9.2.2 Using calibrated calipers, measure the tumors width, length, and thickness.
 - 4.9.2.3 Weigh tumor on calibrated scale.
- 4.10 Thoracic cavity
 - 4.10.1 Remove thoracic organs: as indicated by study protocol.
 - 4.10.2 Weigh organs per study protocol.
 - 4.10.3 If lungs are to be collected, perfuse by injecting Buffered Formalin 10% into the trachea until the lungs fill.
 - 4.10.4 Clamp or ligate the trachea (for rats).
 - 4.10.5 Following necropsy remove tracheal clamps.
 - 4.10.6 Place in 10% neutral buffered formalin.

5. References