

9.4T MRI FACILITY  
SOP#420-3 WASTE DISPOSAL

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Working with animals in the 9.4T MRI Facility requires careful attention to the risk of contamination of items in the facility. All items that come in contact with animals, or any animal waste must either be decontaminated following SOP#415 "Cleaning and Decontamination – Level 1 & 2 Experiments" or be disposed of in the correct manner.
- 1.2. All questions regarding waste disposal should be directed to Robarts Research Institute's Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator or UWO's Biosafety officer.

**2. CHEMICAL LABELLING**

- 2.1. All chemicals and bottles containing chemicals and/or chemical waste must be properly labeled using the WHMIS labeling system or an OH&S Hazardous Material for Disposal label.

**3. GLOVE DISPOSAL**

- 3.1. It is Robarts Research Institute's policy that all gloves used in the lab are disposed of in the Biohazardous Waste. This bin is located in the Prep room next to the mini-fridge.

**4. GLASSWARE DISPOSAL**

- 4.1. Clean waste glassware is to be placed in a "Broken Glass Disposal Box" or equivalent sturdy container that is easily sealed for disposal. A full box can be taped shut, and placed in the dumpster on the loading dock.
- 4.2. Contaminated (Biohazardous) glassware is to be placed in a "Biohazard Bench-Top Keeper" or equivalent sturdy container that is autoclavable and easily sealed for disposal. These containers must be labeled with a Biohazard symbol. The 9.4T MRI Facility DOES NOT have a need for such a container at this time.

**5. SHARPS DISPOSAL**

- 5.1. Sharps (needles, scalpels, razor blades) are to be placed in an approved puncture-resistant autoclavable Biohazard container. If the syringes can be removed from the needle, they do not need to go into the sharps container i.e. luer-lock, slip lock syringes.
- 5.2. When the container is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, close the lid, apply autoclave tape and arrange for proper disposal.
- 5.3. Glassware is not to be disposed of with sharps...it causes damage to the incinerator!

**6. ANIMAL RELATED WASTE DISPOSAL**

- 6.1. Animal carcasses and/or tissue must be disposed of by incineration. Most carcasses should be delivered to the Medical Sciences Building (MSB) freezer in Room 605 OR West Valley Building (WVB) Room 67.
- 6.2. Some carcasses can be placed in the freezer located on the first floor of Robarts Research Institute by the loading dock. Prior approval from the Facility Manager must be obtained before placing carcasses in that freezer, as it is utilized solely by researchers housing animals at Robarts.

- 6.3. Place Biosafety Level 1 carcasses and/or tissue into plain garbage bag - do not use Biohazard bags. Biosafety Level 2 animal carcasses are to be double bagged, and the outside decontaminated as stated in SOP#415 "Cleaning and Decontamination – Level 1 & 2 Experiments" before placing the animal carcasses in the freezer.
  - 6.4. If there are empty animal cages at the completion of the experiment, return cages with dirty bedding to either Health Science Animal Care Facility or Robarts External Barrier for cleaning and bedding disposal.
  - 6.5. In general, any item that comes in contact with an animal or its excrement should be considered Biohazardous and as such be placed in the Biohazard bin located in the prep room next to the mini fridge. i.e. paper towel from cleaning after an experiment, alcohol swabs used to clean instruments and or probes, used q-tips, etc.
- 7. EFFECTIVE MAY 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from Jane O'Brien:**
- 7.1. "The RPR Environmental pickup system will be made available to all users across campus, including the MSB/DSB/HSA/SDRI/RRI areas. Properly packaged, labelled and documented waste (sharps, fixed tissues, chemicals) can be taken directly to an existing RPR drop off point." (Robarts Loading Dock every Thursday morning at 9:05am-9:15am).
  - 7.2. Disposal procedures for items requiring refrigeration, such as carcasses and tissues, remain the same, and can be taken directly to the incinerator cold room in Medical Sciences Building Room 605 or West Valley Building Room 87 or Robarts Freezer if permitted. Please ensure all items are packaged and labeled properly before placing them in the designated barrels.
  - 7.3. The bags of Biohazard Waste (that contain gloves, paper towel, gauze, etc) can be taken downstairs in Robarts Basement to Pat for autoclaving. Close the top of the bag(s) with autoclave tape.
  - 7.4. Sharps Containers : need an ORANGE "Waste material for Incineration" sticker , AS WELL AS the form entitled "Material for Hazardous Waste Disposal".
  - 7.5. Chemicals : chemicals such as used formalin, or expired misc chemicals need a WHITE "Hazardous Material for Disposal" sticker AS WELL AS the form entitled "Material for Hazardous Waste Disposal".
  - 7.6. Any questions should be directed to Ron Noseworthy at x24215 Robarts Research Institute.