

**Subject: Ether Anesthesia**

Source: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)  
Effective Date: 07/13/20  
Replaces: 12/08/14  
Applies to: Personnel involved in research or teaching studies involving animals  
Reference: Animal Welfare Act; PHS Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals; Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals



**Introduction**

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) maintains oversight review for federally mandated rules and regulations with regard to animal research, ethics, misconduct and biomedical research for the University of Colorado Denver |Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Denver | Anschutz).

**Policy Statement**

This policy is intended to provide information on the requirements for the use of ether and to establish procedures to be followed if using ether as an anesthetic.

- Ether will not be approved for animal studies at CU Denver | Anschutz as an anesthetic due to problems concerning its:
  - Safety factor (human risk)
  - Irritant qualities (animal and human risk)
  - Induction of pulmonary edema (animal risk)
- Exceptions to the policy concerning ether anesthesia will be considered and reviewed by the IACUC on a case-by-case basis, and only with adequate scientific justification.

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency (e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification may affect continuous funding of your animal-related research. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.