



# Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

## PREPARATION FOR RECOVERY SURGERIES

Number: TEC 11

Version: 1.1

Date: 12/06/2014

**Purpose:** To provide guidelines on the preparation needed to be done prior to recovery surgeries on animals that are covered by Curtin University's Animal Ethic Committee. Animal Facility staff are available to discuss these processes with researchers.

### **Definitions:**

Recovery Surgery: This means surgeries in that the animals are recovering from surgery and will be alive after the procedure is carried out under anaesthesia.

Competency: This is a level of training that has been approved and signed off by an experienced member of the animal facility staff or research department

### **Procedure:**

1. Ensure the operator has been fully trained and has competency in anaesthetics, drug administration and dosaging, animal handling, and any appropriate surgical techniques required.
2. Ensure a complete practice run-through has been carried out with a member from the Building 300 facility staff.
3. Ensure the appropriate numbers of assistants are available for the length of time required for the procedure.
4. Ensure all equipment that is required has been prepared and ready at least 2 days prior to the procedures.
  - a. Clean all surgical instruments needed for surgery and wrap in chosen surgical pack for autoclaving. Include a chemical sterilization indicator in each pack. Place autoclave tape on outer surface of each pack.
  - b. Label each pack with date of autoclaving (and contents if desired).
  - c. In packs, include all required additional sterile supplies such as drapes, gauze, cotton-tipped applicators, sterile tip fields, bowls, etc.



- d. Prepare packs for autoclave and set autoclave parameters to the necessary time, pressure and temperature as required to achieve full sterilization of the packs
- e. A biological indicator should be placed in the centre of the largest pack in the centre of the load once a month to ensure the autoclave parameters chosen are achieving sterility.
- f. Remove dried packs from autoclave, check that autoclave tape indicates packs have been processed, and place in an area where the packs will not get wet or dirty.

5. Ensure correct equipment is available and ready – See Form 6.

**Author:** Dr Tara Pike

**Date of Approval:** 12/06/2014

**Reviewed:**

DATE	8/5/2017				
REVIEWER	Dr Tara Pike				