

# AVMA: An Update on the Panel on Euthanasia and the Panel on Depopulation

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# AVMA's Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

- First edition published in 1963; 8<sup>th</sup> edition in 2013
- Data-based, perspective-balanced guidance that is highly influential in regulatory and business environments
- Through a process of continual improvement this document has evolved in important ways
  - Science knowledge and related evaluative criteria for acceptability
  - Societal expectations for animal care
  - Commitment of resources to convening the Panel and the production of its report

# History of the AVMA's Panel on Euthanasia

1963

- Recommendations applicable to dogs, cats, other small mammals
- Oversight by Council on Research, 5 individuals made up the Panel, report 9 pages long

1972 and 1978

- Add laboratory animals and those used for food production, respectively
- Additional information about animals' physiologic and behavioral responses, effects on observers, and the economic feasibility and environmental impacts of various approaches

1986

- Added poikilothermic, aquatic and fur-bearing wildlife species

1993

- Added horses and additional wildlife species



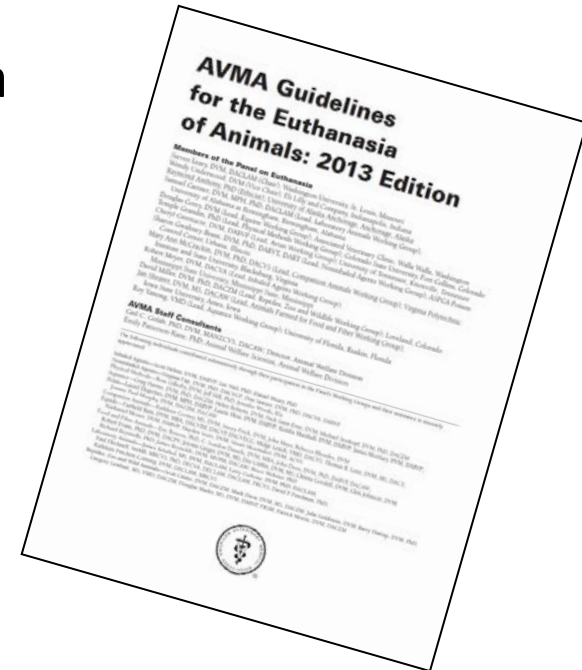
# History of the AVMA's Panel on Euthanasia

2000 included discussion about mass euthanasia and acknowledged a need for additional information; 17 people, 24 pages

2007 (interim) incorporates policy on maceration of poultry; oversight transferred to the Animal Welfare Committee

2013

- 14 panel members, 11 working groups (3 techniques groups, 8 species groups), ethicist, 102-page report
- Opportunity for member comment on draft
- Panel continues to exist as a virtual entity to respond to inquiries
- Deliberate separation of euthanasia, humane slaughter, and depopulation → “Humane Endings”
- Commitment to data-based improvements that meet societal needs



# Guidelines for the Humane Slaughter of Animals 2016

First iteration of its kind for AVMA in the area of humane slaughter of food animals.

The guidelines do not debate the use of animals nor do they delve into the morality of killing animals for food or fiber.

The focus of the document is on what should happen to animals when slaughter is their ultimate fate.

Guidelines describe controlled atmospheric methods of stunning for poultry, pigs and fish.

# Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals 2018

**Depopulation may employ euthanasia techniques, but not all depopulation methods meet the [AVMA] criteria for euthanasia**

Depopulation refers to the rapid destruction of a population of animals in response to urgent circumstances with as much consideration given to the welfare of the animals as practicable

Urgent circumstances may include emergency situations, such as the need for immediate disease control or a response to natural or human-made disasters. These guidelines are not applicable to precautionary killing.

# Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals

## Preferred Methods

These methods are given highest priority and should be utilized preferentially when developing emergency response plans and when circumstances allow reasonable implementation during emergencies.

They may correspond to AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals or the Guidelines for the Humane Slaughter of Animals techniques but adjusted for situational considerations.

# Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals Permitted in Constrained Circumstances

These methods are permitted only when the circumstances of the emergency are deemed to constrain the ability to reasonably implement a preferred method.

Potential constraints that might result in use of methods in this category include, but are not limited to, constraints on zoonotic disease risk, human safety, depopulation efficiency, deployable resources, equipment, animal access, disruption of infrastructure, and disease transmission risk.



# Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals Not Recommended

These methods should be considered ONLY when the circumstances preclude the reasonable implementation of any of the “preferred or permitted in constrained circumstances” methods, AND when the risk of doing nothing is deemed likely to have a reasonable chance of resulting in significantly more animal suffering than that associated with the proposed depopulation technique.

Examples of such situations include, but are not limited to, structural collapse or compromise of buildings housing animals, large-scale radiologic events, complete inability to safely access animals for prolonged period of time or any circumstance that poses a severe threat to human life.

# Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

## 2018 Interim Update

### February 8-9, 2018 Panel Meeting

- Discussion of a variety of potential updates to the 2013 Guidelines
- Decisions on issues to be targeted for change
- Timeline set for changes to be implemented

### November 4, 2018 Panel Meeting

- Discussion of drafted changes and dialogue of the Humane Endings Symposium
- Final decisions made for proposed changes

# Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

## 2018 Interim Update

### Livestock

- Updates to include:
  - Updated images for bovids to match the Guidelines for Humane Slaughter of Animals
  - Updated images for small ruminants to match the Guidelines for Humane Slaughter of Animals
  - New images for proper positioning for captive bolt use in cervids (llama, alpaca, deer)
  - CO2 use in goat kids

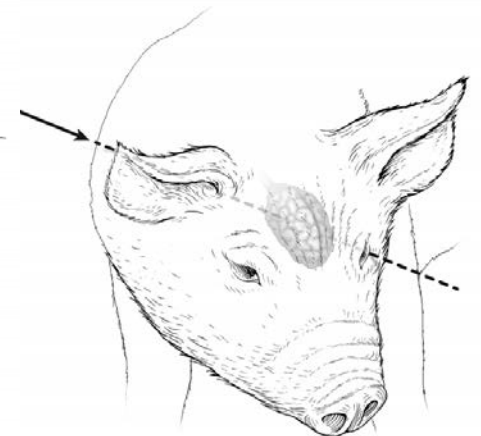
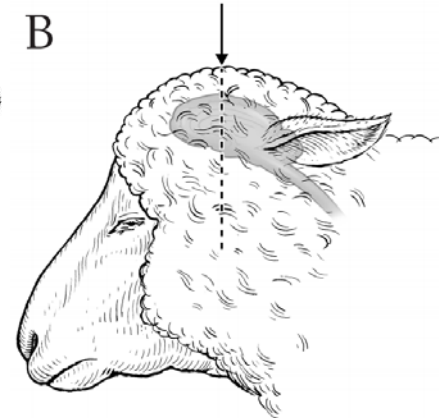
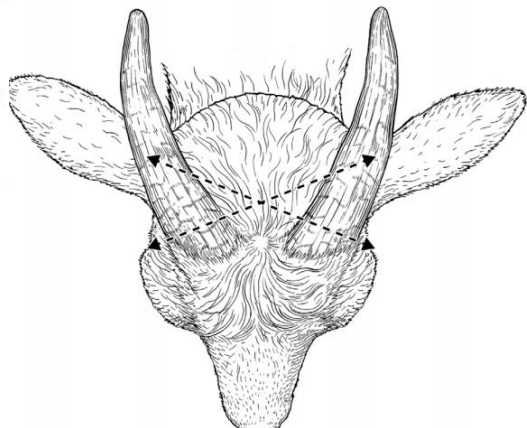
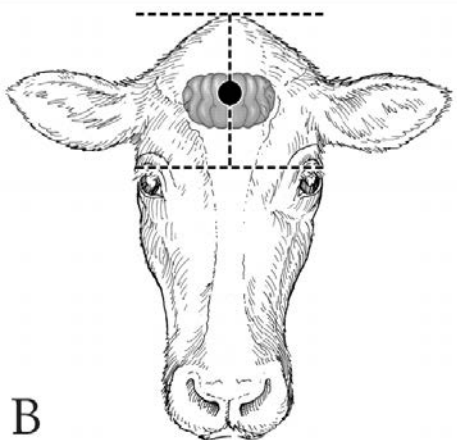
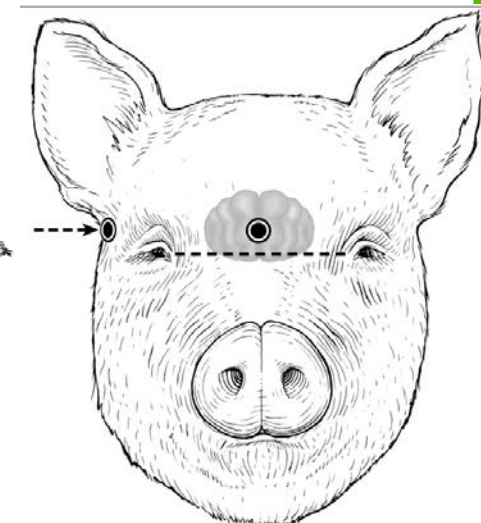
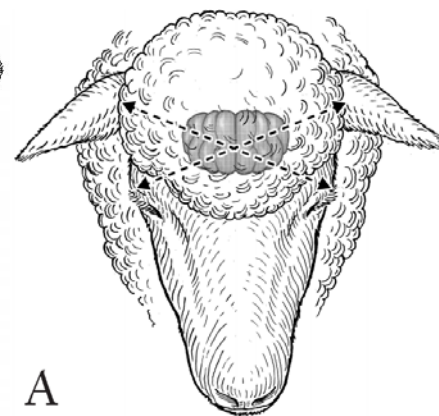
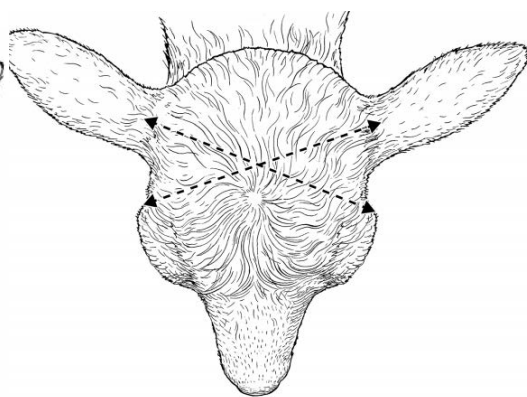
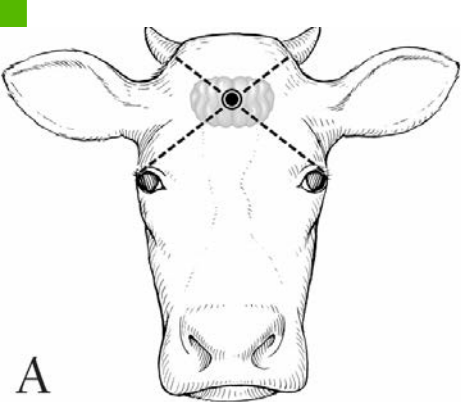
### Poultry

- Updates to include:
  - Clarification of use of CO2 in poultry vs. use in laboratory animals
  - Captive bolt use
  - Remove details related to depopulation as they are now covered by the *Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals*



# Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

## 2018 Interim Update



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# AVMA Humane Endings Symposium

November 2-4, 2018

- Westin O'Hare, Chicago Illinois
- Focus on interim update of the Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals and new Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals
- [www.avma.org/HumaneEndings](http://www.avma.org/HumaneEndings)

# AVMA Humane Endings Symposium

November 2-4, 2018

- Program will include:
  - Overarching plenaries on topics such as:
    - Making Difficult Ethical Decisions in Challenging Situations
    - Emergency Planning and Action
    - Differences between Anesthesia and Sedation
    - Integrating Science of Consciousness and Anesthesia
    - Among others
  - Breakout sessions on:
    - Species specific areas (e.g., companion animals, laboratory animals, livestock)
    - Use of Carbon Dioxide
    - Culling of Animals
    - Incorporating Depopulation into Emergency Planning
    - Killing in Response to Recent Disaster Events



# Questions?



People are very open-minded about new things—as long as they're exactly like the old ones.

—Charles F. Kettering

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**THANK YOU**

