

# METHODS OF ON-FARM EUTHANASIA (1 OF 2)

The following is a list of methods of euthanasia that are considered either acceptable or acceptable with the noted conditions. For a method to be considered acceptable, it must rapidly render the rabbit insensible and the rabbit must not return to sensibility prior to death.

Euthanasia Method	Acceptability by Rabbit Age and Weight	Conditions	Comments
Anesthetic overdose	Acceptable for all rabbits	IV barbiturate (for example) administered under the direction of a licensed veterinarian only.	Carcasses may be dangerous to scavengers. Safe disposal of the carcass is necessary.
Decapitation	Acceptable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-weaned kits &lt;150 g (&lt;0.3 lb)</li> </ul>		Complete separation of the head from the body can be accomplished with the use of appropriate equipment such as heavy scissors or garden shears.
Assisted manual cervical dislocation	Acceptable with conditions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-weaned kits 150 g - 1 kg (0.3 - 2.2 lb)</li> <li>• Weaned and growing rabbits 1 - 1.5 kg (2.2 - 3.3 lb) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult rabbits &gt; 1.5 kg (&gt; 3.3 lb)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	A purpose-designed device that results in separation (never crushing) of the cervical vertebrae must be used.	
Blunt force trauma	Only as a method of stunning pre-weaned kits <150 g (<0.3 lb)  A secondary step to cause death is required.	Appropriate physical force must be used and the object must be brought to the rabbit's head, once the rabbit has been restrained.  Blunt force trauma must be immediately followed by a suitable secondary step (decapitation or manual cervical dislocation) to cause death.	

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See Appendix F - Rabbit Code of Practice (2018) - Page 55  
[www.nfacc.ca/rabbit-code-of-practice#appendixG](http://www.nfacc.ca/rabbit-code-of-practice#appendixG)