

4. CONFIRMING DEATH IN RODENT SPECIES

death, the pupils will become dilated and unresponsive to light. Some drugs and experimental agents (e.g., anticholinergics such as atropine) can prevent pupillary reactivity or otherwise affect this neurological response.

- c. **Respiratory pattern:** Profoundly anesthetized animals may exhibit shallow and irregular breathing patterns that may be confused for lack of spontaneous breathing. Thus, lack of spontaneous breathing should not be used as sole criteria for confirming euthanasia.

6. CONFIRMATION OF DEATH IN ECTOTHERMIC VERTEBRATES

Additional care must be taken to ensure death following euthanasia in ectothermic vertebrates such as fish, reptiles, and amphibians. (rte)51y(a)Sch animals may normally exhibit very low heart rates, and the heart and brain are very tolerant to hypoxia; many ectotherms can voluntarily hold their breath for an hour or more. Absence of heart rate and/or breathing will not necessarily provide confirmation of death in these animals; secondary methods for ectothermic vertebrates should always include either removal of the heart or decapitation followed by placement of the head in liquid nitrogen.

7. AGENTS AND METHODS OF EUTHANASIA BY SPECIES (*from Appendix I from AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia 2013*)

Rabbits

