TIPS FOR SAFE ANESTHETIC GAS USE

EQUIPMENT AND WORK PRACTICES

- Use a vaporizer (or anesthesia machine) and breathing circuit/nose cone designed for anesthesia for the animal species you are working with. (Do NOT attempt to “improvise” anesthesia delivery with equipment not created for that purpose.)

- If using an induction chamber, flush the chamber before opening (with air or O₂) and/or minimize the time the chamber is open.

SCAVENGING WASTE GASES

- Work in a fume hood if possible or near a dedicated local exhaust “snorkel” positioned 4—6” from the induction chamber or nose cone.

- Medical vacuum systems may be used to exhaust waste anesthetic gases from an anesthesia vaporizer circuit. If your building has a lab vacuum system, it is designed for air only—check with OESO for approval to use a standard lab vacuum system for scavenging.

- If using an isoflurane vaporizer, you can work on the benchtop if you have a charcoal canister for scavenging. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for setting up the canister and tracking canister life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- See the Duke Animal Care and Use Program’s policy on Safe Use of Anesthetic Gases.

- If you are concerned about employee exposure to anesthetic gases, contact OESO at 919-684-5996.

- For guidelines on animal safety during anesthesia, see the website of the Duke Animal Care and Use Program or contact DLAR or OAWA.

EXAMPLES OF VETERINARY ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT

- Mouse breathing circuit from Harvard Apparatus

- VetEquip VaporGuard Charcoal canister