STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

TITLE:	**Veterinary Electro-Cautery Unit**
SCOPE:	Research and Animal Care Personnel
RESPONSIBILITY:	Surgical Core Manager, Professional & Administrative Staff
PURPOSE:	To outline the proper procedures for use and maintenance of a veterinary electro-cautery unit

I. PURPOSE

1. This procedure outlines the use and maintenance of a veterinary electro-cautery system used to cut skin or tissues and provide hemostasis in a variety of animal species

II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. It is the responsibility of the Facility Manager in conjunction with the Surgical Core Manager to ensure that equipment is appropriately cleaned, maintained in good working order, and available for research personnel as requested.

2. It is the responsibility of the veterinary professional, administrative, and managerial staff to ensure that all research and technical staff using this equipment are adequately trained and experienced to perform veterinary electo-cautery techniques.

III. EQUIPMENT USE

1. Monopolar
    a. Set mode select knob to monopolar.
    b. Connect dispersive electrode plug to dispersive electrode receptacle and connect other end to dispersive electrode plate or to metal table directly in contact with patient.
    c. Connect foot switch cord to receptacle on rear panel and set foot switch select knob on monopolar. (Not required when using hand switchable instruments).
    d. Connect pins of selected instrument to appropriate pin connector of unit.
    e. Connect power cord to outlet with power switch off. Turn power switch on. Light will illuminate.
    f. Audible tones and indicating lights signal the activation of an instrument. Volume can be adjusted on the rear panel. Do not turn volume below the audible range.
    g. Press cut or coagulate hand or foot switch to activate the desired instrument.

1. Cutting
    a. Set blend cutting control for desired cutting effect. LED bar display off for pure cutting, fully illuminated for maximum blend (hemostasis cut).
    b. Set cutting power wattage to lowest setting giving the desired cutting effect. Note: Increasing blend level may require increasing cutting power to maintain cutting speed.
2. Coagulation
    a. Set coagulation type for desired coagulation effect pinpoint or spray.
    b. Set coagulation power wattage to lowest setting giving desired coagulating effect.

2. Bipolar
    a. Dispersive electrode not required.
    b. Set mode select knob to bipolar.
    c. If using foot control set to bipolar.
    d. Follow directions D-G under monopolar.

3. Dual Mode
    a. Set mode select knob to dual mode.
    b. Follow directions B-G under monopolar.

4. Alarms
    a. Cord fault automatically give audible and visible alarms when a fault exists in the monopolar dispersive cable connections. The cord fault circuit does not verify dispersive electrode contact or quality of contact with patient. The volume of this alarm in not adjustable.

IV. WARNINGS

1. This equipment has an output which is capable of causing a physiological effect and is to be used by qualified personnel only. Follow manufacturer's instructions carefully.

2. Injury to the patient/operator can result from improper dispersive electrode attachment.

3. Injury to the patient/operator can result when employing needle electrode at high power settings. Request for higher power settings on longer activations than normal may indicate a fault exists. Do not increase power settings before all cables, electrodes, and connections are checked.

4. Insulate active accessories when not in use. A safety cup is recommended.

5. Explosion hazard: Do not use in the presence of flammable anesthetics.

V. MAINTENANCE

1. Inspect condition of unit and electrical cord/plug to ensure safe operation. Equipment determined to be unsafe will be removed from service immediately.

2. Clean unit, cords, and accessories by wiping with a mild disinfectant and soft cloth.

3. Any additional maintenance/service should be performed by authorized personnel.

VI. REFERENCES

1. Refer to manufacturer's instructions for additional information.

Approved: **Date:**