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Decapitation is often used when chemical methods may interfere with research results. When decapitation is used, the blades should be kept very sharp and guillotines should be well maintained and cleaned between uses to prevent transmission of olfactory clues.

Guillotines that are designed to accomplish decapitation in adult rodents in a uniformly instantaneous manner are commercially available.

The use of plastic decapicones to restrain animals is strongly recommended as it reduces stress from handling, minimizes the chance of injury to personnel, and improves positioning of the animal in the guillotine.

The equipment used in this protocol is described in the following table.

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