MOUSE/RAT EUTHANASIA INSTRUCTIONS
(For BSRB-Brehm Locations)
• If consolidating animals for euthanizing it is important to consider a few things:
  1. If using normal mouse cages the maximum number of mice allowed in the cage is 10 mice per cage for euthanizing purposes only and not housing purposes.
  2. If consolidating rats you cannot exceed the normal housing guidelines. (usually found on or near the laminar flow hood in the animal housing room)
  3. If using your own euthanizing chamber all mice and rats should be able to assume normal posture and movement.
  4. Animals that are consolidated MUST be euthanized immediately! They cannot remain housed this way for more than 10 minutes.
The flow meter (1) should be at zero and the supply valve (2) and flow meter valve (3) turned off, which is all the way clockwise
Insert the CO2 hose through the water bottle grommet on the cage lid or through the lixit hole in the back of the cage.
Turn supply valve (1) to the left or counter clockwise to turn on the CO2.
Adjust CO2 flow into the cage by turning the regulator knob (1) slowly until the gauge (floating black ball) (2) reaches the desired color line.
Allow gas to run until animals are no longer moving or breathing.
Turn off the CO2 supply valve (1) and note that the gauge (2) is falling back to zero now.
The gauge should now be at zero with no more CO2 flowing. After gauges reach zero ensure the flow meter valve (1) is shut off by turning it clockwise until snug. Do not over tighten.
After the animals are euthanized you must ensure death by performing a pneumothorax or other method as defined in your protocol.
After you have ensured death, you must place carcasses in a glove or opaque bag and put in the carcass cooler.