

1 0 ViEhã SiÂSnpVAXGutopãTSErtilization

**SCOPE:** Animal Care Personnel

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Facility Manager and Technical Staff

4. Items to be sterilized should be **placed into the autoclave** so that steam can uniformly flow between items and so that no air pockets are formed between or around the items.
5. **Small items** to be autoclaved **should be bagged or wrapped** in heat-resistant plastic, paper, or cloth.
6. **Sterilized supplies must be labeled** with date autoclaved/processed. Date of expiration is determined using the following criteria:
  - a. Sterile packs/items should be stored in clean, dry enclosed cabinets and drawers free from moisture and dust.
  - b. Sterile packs prepared by research or technical staff, when stored in enclosed cabinets/drawers in a dust-free, insect-free, and well-ventilated area, can be considered sterile for **1 year** providing the packaging remains dry and intact.
  - c. Sterile packs prepared by research or technical staff stored on open shelves have a reduced safe shelf life of **1 month** providing the packaging remains dry and intact.
  - d. The manufacturer generally stamps commercially prepared sterilized packs with an expiration date.
  - e. A shelf life of **3 year** is suggested for commercially prepared packs without an expiration date, providing the pack is stored in an enclosed cabinet/drawer, remains dry, and packaging is intact. **Label with date of receipt.**
  - f. The quality of the packaging material, storage and transport conditions, and the amount of handling all contribute to maintaining sterility of the package and its contents.
  - g. Any package that is wet, torn, dropped on the floor, damaged in any way, or prohibits, date of expiration 0.7 (es) 1.7 (ear6



**Approved:**

**Date:**