

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 400.31

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TITLE: Rodent Husbandry

Personnel handling rodents perform their duties in a manner that complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines.

Principal Investigator oversees all aspects of animal health and animal husbandry.

in

(arrival if unavailable) or body weight

Inspections or conditioning performed
Containers are inspected for signs of damage and shipment accuracy.
Notify the Facility Manager regarding any damage to shipping containers.

Damaged, wet, or contaminated are rejected, and animals are

Notify the Animal Shipping/Ordering Coordinator of damaged containers or orders improperly filled (i.e., weight, age, number)

Reported whenever rodents in undamaged containers appear ill during transit.

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4. Any cage excessively soiled will be changed as often as necessary to maintain an acceptable level of sanitation.
5. Cage changing will be noted on the **Room Status Sheet**.
- f. Cages are changed one cage at a time and husbandry practices planned so that the microisolator filter top is removed from the cage for the least possible amount of time and frequency.
- g. IVC caging is changed as a unit. IVC caging that is excessively soiled (e.g., rat caging, diabetic animals) may be changed weekly with bottoms and bottles changes one week and complete unit changed the second week.
- h. Static micro-isolator filter tops, wire bar lids, environmental enrichment devices, and shelf/rack units will be changed on a rotational basis, a minimum of every other week.
- i. Transferring rodents from soiled to clean microisolators using forceps decontaminated by soaking in Oxivir Tb is preferred. If handling neonates, pups should be cupped using a scoop previously saturate sprayed with Oxivir Tb and placed in the new cage.
- j. If transferring rodents with gloved hands that are dipped/sprayed and sleeves sprayed with Oxivir Tb, ensure a full one minute contact time before handling animals or opening cages. Gloves should be kept wet with Oxivir Tb and changed frequently and between rack-sides.
- k. Soiled IVC caging is not to be disassembled within the cage changing station or housing room. It is removed from the room fully intact and taken to the cage wash area for breakdown and sanitation
- l. Soiled static caging is always kept covered until bedding is properly discarded. This can be accomplished during cage changes by stacking static cages and covering the top cage with a microisolator filter top.
- m. Disinfect work surfaces of changing/work station with Oxivir Tb after cage changing procedures have been completed.
- n. Caging micro-environmental conditions should be verified as adequate during daily observations (e.g., condition of bedding, cage surfaces, observation of animal behavior, appearance). Increased cage change frequency, not anticipated as part of the protocol, exceeding minimums described in item 6d above, should be noted on the **Room Status Sheet** form CMDC #041 and the **Animal Health and Environmental Concerns Form** CMDC #077.
- o. Cages will be moved to the new rack so that they retain the exact same cage position as they held on the original rack. When the rack is put back into place, the relative positions of all cages must not have changed.
- p. IVC equipment/accessories are changed/sanitized at the following intervals and memorialized on the IVC AHU Maintenance Hang Tag and Room Status Sheet
 1. Air Handler Unit (AHU) air exhaust pre-filter - every 4 weeks or as needed.
 - a. With AHU running, the exhaust pre-filter is spritzed with Oxivir Tb and carefully bagged-out.
 - b. AHU exhaust area is wiped with Oxivir Tb and a new filter installed.
 - c. Dirty exhaust filter bag is spritzed with Oxivir Tb prior to removing from the room for disposal.
 2. AHU rack hoses - every 6 months
 - a. Hoses are removed from the rack and immediately capped with glove being careful to not create aerosols.
 - b. Hoses are spritzed with Oxivir Tb and removed to dirty cage wash for cleaning and decontamination.
 3. IVC racks - every 6 months
 4. AHU air intake pre-filter - 6 months

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