

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

SOP#: 429.3

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Interceptor Use in Evaluating Rodent Health</b>
<b>SCOPE:</b>	All Animal Care Personnel
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Veterinarians, All Animal Care Program Personnel
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To Outline the Proper Procedures for Use of Tecniplast Interceptor Media for Rodent Health Evaluations

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**I. PURPOSE**

1. To describe the proper use of the Tecniplast Interceptor use in IVC caging systems.
2. To aid in defining the microbial status of rodent colonies.

**II. RESPONSIBILITY**

1. The veterinarians oversee all aspects of animal health and are assisted by all program staff.
2. The Facility Manager is responsible for ensuring that all technical and animal care staff are adequately trained and experienced in the use of Interceptors for rodent health surveillance.
3. The Assistant Director is responsible for Interceptor procurement, distribution to facilities and submission of samples for evaluation.

**III. PROCEDURE**

1. The Tecniplast Interceptor system collects exhaust air debris moving from cages to the exhaust filtration area of the air handler unit (AHU). A video can be viewed at <https://www.tecniplast.it/en/product/interceptor.html>
2. Health evaluations for mice are conducted using two (2) Interceptors in each AHU. One Interceptor is used to screen for *Corynebacterium bovis* after a 6 week Interceptor exposure. The second Interceptor is used for quarterly assessments of a broad range of infectious agents in the months of February, May, August, and November.
3. Two (2) Interceptors should be loaded in each mouse AHU at the beginning of each quarter. One (1) Interceptor (on the Left when facing the AHU) should remain in place for 6 weeks. The second Interceptor (on the Right) should remain in place for 12 weeks for optimal microbiological assessments.
4. At the time the Interceptor on the Right is removed for quarterly testing, load two (2) Interceptors in each mouse AHU and repeat testing as described in step #3 above.

5. Health evaluations for rats and other rodents are conducted using a single Interceptor filter which is used for quarterly assessments of infectious agents in the months of February, May, August, and November.
6. **Preparing the Interceptor** for IVC microbiological monitoring:
  - a. Record in the space provided on the outside of the Interceptor:
    1. **Date In** (the date it is placed in the AHU)
    2. **AHU serial number**
    3. **Room number**
    4. **Rack numbers.**
  - b. Open the AHU prefilter access panel and ensure the Interceptor metal frame is in place below the prefilter. If metal frame is not already in place, remove the prefilter and insert the frame with the runners facing down.
  - c. Open the Interceptor and insert it into the metal frame.
  - d. Ensure there is a paper filter in each Interceptor and push the sliding section of the Interceptor to expose the filter medium and close the panel. Interceptor and close the panel.
    - b.