

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-5220**

Service: **Research**

Operating Section: **Clinical Medicine**

Unit: **CMF**

Title: **Quarantine, Conditioning, and Preventive Health Programs for Laboratory Rabbits**

Purpose:

To outline the quarantine, conditioning and preventive health program for laboratory rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculi*).

Procedure:



- 1) Length of quarantine and conditioning period and record keeping:
 - a) Rabbits will be subject to a 14 day quarantine/conditioning period. Only minor procedures are permitted during this period. A three (3) day acclimation period will be required prior to use on any but acute, non-survival surgical procedures. Additionally, for animals scheduled to be used for terminal procedures within 14 days of arrival, the quarantine procedures may be waived at the discretion of the Clinical Veterinarian/CMF.
 - b) Records of quarantine/conditioning procedures will be maintained on a quarantine and conditioning form. At the end of the quarantine period the form will be added to the individual animal record.

- 2) Specifics of quarantine/conditioning period:
 - a) Day 1
 - i) The animals will be visually observed by husbandry staff when removed from the shipping box or crate. The attending veterinarian will be notified if any animal appears to be sick or in distress. Any animal which appears sick will be returned to the vendor or alternatively, at the discretion of the attending veterinarian, may be placed in isolation for veterinary observation.
 - ii) Upon arrival, rabbits are weighed. Each animal will be assigned special facility identification numbers, then be assigned to an approved investigator research protocol. Each animal will be assigned a housing area and a cage card with the identification number and an IACUC number will be placed on the cage.
 - iii) Assignment of any special diet or housing arrangements will be made.
 - iv) A permanent individual animal record will be created.

 - b) Day 2-5
 - i) Ears, nails, teeth and fur will be examined and treated and/or clipped if necessary. Other medical treatment will be assigned at the discretion of the Clinical Veterinarian/CMF.
 - ii) Fecal samples will be collected for parasitic examination. Any treatment for parasites will be assigned at the discretion of the Clinical Veterinarian/CMF. Alternatively, all animals from a given shipment may be treated for parasites.

- iii) Animals will be identified by tattoo, microchip, or other form of permanent identification.
- c) Day 2-14
 - i) Animal observation will continue. Health concerns will be brought to the attention of the Clinical Veterinarian/CMF.
 - ii) Follow-up fecal samples will be taken and treatment for parasites will be assigned at the discretion of the Clinical Veterinarian/CMF.
 - iii) If the quarantine period is uneventful and the health of the animal remains stable, the veterinary staff will release the animals at the end of 14 days.
- 3) Preventive Health Maintenance (Records will be maintained on a preventive health maintenance form)
 - a) Quarterly exams include:
 - i) Teeth examined
 - ii) Ears examined
 - iii) Nails trimmed
 - iv) Fur examined for external parasites
 - v) Fecal flotation and tape tests
 - vi) Provide pineapple juice as a prevention for trichobezoars
 - vii) Review animal health status
 - viii) Review of individual animal records
 - b) All animals will have a complete physical exam annually (heart rate, respiratory rate, lung and heart auscultation, body weight, body temperature and general health assessment).

APPROVALS

Responsible Official	Signature 	Date	<i>07/03/2019</i>
QA	Signature 	Date	<i>07/03/2019</i>
Version #3	Effective Date	Supersedes #2	Original Date 5/5/10