Loyola University Chicago  
Comparative Medicine Facility

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: 02-18-4103  
Service: Research  
Operating Section: Husbandry  
Unit: CMF  
Title: Rodent Room Sanitization

Purpose:
To describe the method of routine sanitization of rodent areas.

Procedure:

1) A mop bucket with appropriate disinfectant, a mop, and sponge, are transported from the housekeeping closet, or clean side of the cage wash room, to the room that is to be sanitized.

2) Clean, dry caging is secured and prepared with the appropriate bedding in the clean cage assembly/clean caging area (011). Animal-ready caging is transported to the corridor adjacent to entry airlock/gowning room.

3) Animals should be transferred from dirty to clean cages according to the SOP “Transfer of Animals to Clean Caging”.
   a) Dirty caging is removed from the room and placed into the adjacent corridor and transported to the dirty side of the cage wash facility.
   b) The hallway is mopped and cleaned; occupied caging is transferred to this area
   c) The room is sanitized as outlined below.
   d) The clean, occupied caging is moved back into the sanitized room. Water supply (and clean rack blower, if necessary) is connected. All air connection and water valves will then be checked for proper function.

4) Animals will be held in the corridor only for the time necessary to sanitize the room, and returned promptly. Under no circumstances are animals to be left in the adjacent corridor unmonitored.

5) Rooms are sanitized in the following manner and documentation maintained on the husbandry log:
   a) Moveable equipment, such as food/bedding/garbage containers is removed to the adjacent corridor. Food and bedding containers will have the contents removed. Food is then placed in a sanitized container. Trash bags will be removed. Trash containers will be wiped or sprayed with an appropriate disinfectant and the liner replaced. Other materials such as brooms, mops, and dustpans will be placed in the mop bucket containing appropriate disinfectant and allowed to soak at least 10 minutes. Alternatively, these items may be removed to the cage wash area and cycled through the rack or tunnel washers and replaced promptly into the animal room.
   b) All surfaces are wiped with disinfectant, including the ceiling and light covers, walls, sinks, vent covers, exhaust filters, doors, door frames, and, lastly, the floor.

6) Dirty caging/racks and all stainless steel food/bedding containers are transported to the dirty cage wash area (016) and cycled through the cage wash area.

APPROVALS

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