Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: 02-18-4402
Service: Research
Operating Section: Husbandry
Unit: CMF
Title: General Husbandry for Mice in Individually Ventilated Cages

Purpose:
To describe the minimum acceptable husbandry standards for mice housed in microisolator cages with ventilated cage racks.

Procedure:

1) Enclosures
   a) cage type: polymer caging
   b) cage size: Lab Products 12.875" x 7.5" x 5.625", Allentown 15.01" x 7.63" x 5.13", Alternative Design 10.5" x 6.5" x 5"
   c) cage occupancy: maximum of 4 mice; maximum of 2 adults with litter (under 28 days)
   d) special caging: microisolator filter top
   e) special equipment: filter (microisolator) tops with ventilated cage racks

2) Environment
   a) Lighting is provided by overhead fluorescent fixtures on a 12/12 hr cycle.
   b) Temperature will be maintained between 68-79°F (22-26°C). Relative humidity will be maintained between 30-70%.
   c) Supplied air will be 100% fresh exchanged at a rate of 10-15 room changes per hour. Exhaust air will be exhausted to the exterior of the building (Allentown) or HEPA filtered exhaust system (Lab Products and Alternative Design).

3) Husbandry Services
   a) feeding: Ad libitum
      Water bottles changed once a week. When in use, automatic watering pressure is monitored daily by checking the pressure gauge in the pressure reduction station. Drinking valves (fisits) are checked weekly at a minimum of one valve per row per rack, and sanitized and replaced monthly.
   b) watering:
   c) cage changes: Boxes are changed weekly or more often as needed as per SOP "Changing Animals within a Microisolator System."
   d) rack changes: Racks are sanitized quarterly.
   e) feeder changes: Feeders are changed every two weeks.
   f) filter top changes: Microisolator tops are changed every two weeks.

4) Cleaning Patterns
   a) Floors of rooms and adjacent corridors will be swept daily.
   b) Floors of rooms and adjacent corridors will be sanitized with an appropriate disinfectant (see SOP "Preparation and Use of Disinfectants") at least twice weekly.

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c) Sinks are sanitized with an appropriate agent at least twice weekly.
d) Doors, door frames, and all other surfaces are sanitized weekly.
e) Rooms, including walls and ceilings, are sanitized monthly, as emptied of occupants, or more often as needed, using appropriate disinfectants (see SOP "Animal Room Sanitization").
f) Accidental spills and soiled wall surfaces will be cleaned as discovered or reported.
g) Unauthorized equipment left in animal or procedure rooms will be removed daily unless otherwise approved by the Operations Manager, CMF.
h) Brooms, dustpans, and garbage cans are sanitized weekly.

5) Maintenance/Repair
   a) All towel dispensers will be checked daily and replenished as necessary.
b) Trash containers will be checked daily and emptied as needed.
c) Room exhaust air filters are changed or cleaned monthly or more frequently if needed.
d) Light fixtures and tubes are checked daily. Any failures will be reported to the Operations Manager, CMF or designee who will then generate work orders for repair by Facilities personnel.
e) Rack pre-filters are checked daily and replaced monthly (see SOP “Maintenance of Ventilated Cage Racks”) (Lab Products and Alternative Design).
f) Magnuselc gauge is checked daily for significant changes.

6) All animals are checked daily by the CMF staff. Any abnormalities are to be reported immediately to the veterinary staff via an animal observation form.

7) All husbandry practices will be documented on husbandry logs. This log will be maintained by the CMF staff responsible for the specified room. The log will be kept in/or adjacent to the room and submitted to the Operations Manager, CMF, upon completion of each month.

Comments:
None.

APPROVALS

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