

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-4432**

Service: **Research**

Operating Section: **Husbandry**

Unit: **CMF**

Title: **General Husbandry for Rats in Individually Ventilated Cages**

Purpose:

To describe the minimum acceptable husbandry standards for rats (*Rattus species*) housed in individually ventilated caging.

Procedure:

- 1) Enclosures
 - a) cage type: polymer caging
 - b) cage size: 15.53" x 11.82" x 7.63"
 - c) cage occupancy: maximum of 2 rats, if each weighs more than 200 g each (3 if each weighs between 100-200 g; maximum of 1 female with litter)
 - d) special caging: microisolator
 - e) special equipment: microisolator tops in ventilated cage racks

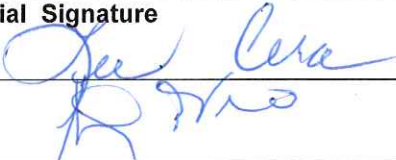

- 2) Environment
 - a) Lighting is provided by overhead fluorescent fixtures on a 12/12 hr cycle.
 - b) Temperature will be maintained between 68-79°F (20-26°C). Relative humidity will be maintained between 30-70%. System alarm parameters are set to notify the Operations Manager, CMF of environmental extremes. Either through system alarms, or manual calls, the CMF staff will notify the Operations Manager, CMF when the temperature is within 2 degrees of low or high parameters, or if humidity is out of range.
 - c) Supplied air will be 100% fresh exchanged at a rate of 10-15 room changes per hour and exhausted to the exterior of the building.

- 3) Husbandry Services
 - a) feeding: *Ad libitum*
 - b) watering: Water bottles are changed weekly or more often as needed. When in use, automatic watering pressure is monitored daily by checking the pressure gauge in the pressure reduction station. Drinking valves are checked weekly at a minimum of one valve per row per rack.
 - c) cage changes: Boxes are changed weekly or more often as needed.
 - d) rack changes: Racks are changed or sanitized quarterly.
 - e) feeder changes: Feeders are changed every two weeks; leftover food from the dirty top is discarded.
 - f) tops: 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.

- 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) Magnahelic 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.

APPROVALS

Responsible Official Signature		Date	
		04/08/2019	
QA Signature		Date	
		04/08/2019	
Version #3	Effective Date	Supersedes #2	Original Date 08/04/10