

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-4500**

Service: **Research**

Operating Section: **Husbandry**

Unit: **CMF**

Title: **General Husbandry for Conventionally Housed Rabbits**

Purpose:

To describe the minimum acceptable husbandry standards for conventionally housed rabbits.

Procedure:

- 1) Enclosures
 - a) cage type: stainless steel or plastic
 - b) cage size: Lenderking 26.5" x 26" x 18"
 - c) cage occupancy: < 2 kg = 3 rabbits, > 2 kg = 1 rabbit, twice the number of rabbits with divider removed; maximum of 1 adult with kits up to 10 weeks
 - c) special caging: none
 - d) special equipment: none

- 2) Environment
 - a) Lighting is provided by overhead fluorescent fixtures on a 12/12 hr cycle.
 - b) Temperature will be maintained between 61-72°F (16-22°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 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: Rabbits are fed *ad libitum*; feeders are checked daily for water/urine/fecal contamination.
 - b) watering: Water bottles are changed daily. When in use, automatic watering pressure is monitored daily by checking the pressure gauge in the pressure reduction station and rack connections. Drinking valves are checked daily at a minimum of one valve per row per rack. Rack manifolds are flushed every two weeks as racks are changed and recoil hoses are sanitized every two weeks by a cycle through the rack/tunnel washer.
 - c) waste pans: Pans are changed twice weekly or more often as needed.
 - d) cage changes: Cages are changed every two weeks or more often as needed.
 - e) rack changes: Racks are changed every two weeks or more often as needed.



- 4) **Cleaning Patterns**
 - a) Floors of rooms and adjacent corridors are swept daily.
 - b) Floors of rooms and adjacent corridors are sanitized with an appropriate disinfectant (see SOP "Preparation and Use of Disinfectants") and drains are flushed 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 quarterly, as emptied of occupants, or more often as needed using appropriate disinfectants (see SOP Animal Room Sanitization").
 - f) Accidental spills and soiled wall surfaces are cleaned as discovered or reported.
 - g) Unauthorized equipment left in animal or procedure rooms are removed daily unless otherwise approved by the Operations Manager, CMF.
 - h) Brooms, dust pans and garbage cans are sanitized weekly.

- 5) **Maintenance/Repair**
 - a) All towel dispensers are checked daily and replenished as necessary.
 - b) Trash containers are checked daily and emptied as needed.
 - c) Room exhaust air filters are changed or cleaned daily.
 - d) Light fixtures and tubes are checked daily. Any failures are reported to the Operations Manager, CMF, or designee who will then generate work orders for repair by Facilities.

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

- 7) All husbandry practices are documented on husbandry logs specific for the species and housing conditions. This log is maintained by the CMF staff responsible for the specified room. The log is kept in or adjacent to the room and submitted to the Operations Manager, CMF, upon completion of the month.

APPROVALS

Responsible Official Signature		Date	
		5/9/19	
QA Signature		Date	
		05/09/2019	
Version #3	Effective Date	Supersedes #2	Original Date 11/03/03