

1. PURPOSE

This Standard Operating procedure (SOP) describes the maintenance of a passive watering system.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Principal investigator (PI) and their research staff, facility supervisor and manager, animal care staff.

3. PROCEDURES

- 3.1. Fill a clean water container with fresh tap water, autoclave and add 2 ml of bleach/10 L of water.
- 3.2. Connect the container to the water line and fill it by connecting a tube at the end and letting it drain in a waste container.
- 3.3. Every day, drain the line as described above (about 100 ml).
- 3.4. Every other week, replace with a new water tank filled with tap water, autoclaved and added with 2mL of bleach/10mL of water (as in step 3.1).
- 3.5. In between cohorts of animals (i.e., in absence of animals), fill the container with hot water and bleach (100mL/10L), connect it to the water line, fill it and let stand for 20 minutes. Let drain the container completely through the water line. Drain the line dry until next use.
- 3.6. After cleaning the cage, immerse the valve in a hot water and bleach solution (1:80) for 20 minutes by filling the cage above the valve. Rinse with fresh water and let dry. Keep in a clean container until next use.
- 3.7. Every 3 months, collect a water sample for microbiological monitoring:
- 3.8. Wipe the watering valve from the last cage on the line with a gauze and hydrogen peroxide based disinfectant.
- 3.9. With a clean glove wiped with hydrogen peroxide based disinfectant, press the valve lever and let water flow for 30-60 seconds (in a waste container).
- 3.10. Collect approx. 50 ml of water in a sterile container and submit for microbiological analysis.