Part 1  General

1.1  Summary
.1 Unless otherwise indicated, follow the standards below when planning for animal facilities. These standards are not intended to restrict or replace professional judgment.
.2 These guidelines should be read with the specific technical sections of McGill’s Building Design and Technical Standards.

1.2  Codes & Standards
.1 “Guidelines on laboratory animal facilities- characteristics, design and development” issued by the Canadian Council on Animal Care, last version at http://www.ccac.ca/.
.2 Normes et lignes directrices canadiennes sur la bio-sécurité.

1.3  Design Requirements for Animal Facilities
.1 Location:
.1 Separate the animal suite from offices and main pedestrian corridors to discourage unauthorized access as well as to mitigate odors.
.2 Animal areas need to be secured to only authorized personnel. Provide access control, using card readers, and connect the card readers to the central monitoring station. Consider the need for a closed circuit TV system.
.3 Consider the need to provide ready access to an elevator that can be segregated and secured from the public for the transportation of animals, cages, feed, bedding, waste, etc. Consider whether there should be a dedicated elevator for the facility.
.4 Do not locate the animal suite above electrical rooms, telephone/data rooms, or other rooms that could be damaged if water leaks down after wash-down of the animal rooms.
.5 When positioned along a perimeter wall, do not install exterior windows in animal rooms.
.6 Specialized support areas (including but not limited to food and bedding storage rooms, hazardous agent storage rooms, clean and soiled cage holding rooms, cage washer rooms, refuse rooms, animal care equipment storage rooms, and animal care personnel lavatory (shower and locker rooms), shall be strategically located in relation to animal rooms to isolate the animal rooms from offices and pedestrian corridors.
.2 Corridors:
.1 Main corridors shall be 7 feet wide. Branch corridors shall not be less than 5 feet- 6 inches wide.
.3 Surfaces:
.1 Surfaces shall be constructed of materials that are waterproof and easily sanitizable.
.2 Epoxy painted cement block walls, epoxy painted plaster ceilings and smooth texture acid and solvent resistant monolithic floors are preferred. Water-resistant gypsum
drywall-on-metal-stud partitions are acceptable. Vinyl-covered gypsum lay-in suspended ceiling panel ceilings in galvanized grid are acceptable.

.3 Walls should be protected with guard rails. Projecting items such as thermostats are undesirable, but if absolutely necessary shall be protected with bumpers or guards.

.4 Exposed overhead pipes and conduits are undesirable, but if absolutely necessary, the penetrations shall be sleeved and sealed. All floor penetrations shall have sleeves and be watertight.

.5 Above-ceiling devices requiring service or maintenance are undesirable, but if absolutely necessary, shall be provided with waterproof access panels. Utility valves should be located above the corridor ceiling.

.4 Doors:

.1 Doors shall be 24 inches wide by 84 inches high minimum, and shall open into the rooms.

.2 Metal doors with self-sealing sweeps, tight fitting to prevent the entry of small rodents are preferred.

.3 Doors shall be equipped with kick plates, push-pull plates (no knobs), delayed-action closers, a viewing window; and a dead bolt with a combination lock.

Part 2 Related Technical Sections

The technical sections of the McGill Building Design and Technical Standards should be consulted with the current document, most notably (but not limited to) the following:

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