
1. PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes routine husbandry for sentinel animal cages.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Animal care staff.

3. PROCEDURES

- 3.1. Identify cages with a SENTINEL cage card. Include the following information:
 - 3.1.1. Investigator
 - 3.1.2. Protocol number
 - 3.1.3. Facility
 - 3.1.4. Room number
 - 3.1.5. Rack(s) number
 - 3.1.6. Number of animals in the cage
- 3.2. Observe all sentinel cages for illness, injury and general condition of animals daily. Report any abnormalities to the veterinary care staff.
- 3.3. Sentinels must be exposed to all the 70-100 cages monitored over a 2-week period.
- 3.4. Dirty bedding transfer for mice:
 - 3.4.1. Transfer one plastic teaspoon (~5mL) of dirty bedding from every cage monitored into a clean, empty cage (without bedding) during cage change. Total amount of dirty bedding should not exceed 500mL.
- 3.5. Dirty bedding transfer for rats:
 - 3.5.1. Transfer one plastic teaspoon (~5mL) of dirty bedding from every cage monitored into a clean cage during cage change.
- 3.6. Transfer sentinels to cage with dirty bedding.
- 3.7. Record date of dirty bedding transfer on the back of the SENTINEL cage card.
- 3.8. Disinfect plastic teaspoon between sentinel cages.
- 3.9. Apply general Rodent Husbandry SOP for feed, water, environmental enrichment and cage changing.