

1. PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the daily routine for the care of rabbits.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Animal care staff

3. MATERIALS

- 3.1. Rabbit diet (within 6 months of the milling date)
- 3.2. Clean water bottles
- 3.3. Clean rabbit cages
- 3.4. Paper pan liners
- 3.5. Bedding
- 3.6. Clean litter boxes
- 3.7. Clean environmental enrichment devices
- 3.8. Disinfectant solution

4. PROCEDURES

4.1. Daily:

- 4.1.1. Observe animals and report any abnormality to the veterinary care staff.
- 4.1.2. Log temperature (min/max) and humidity (min/max). Report any abnormality of environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, light, noise) to the supervisor.
- 4.1.3. Reset temperature/humidity meter.
- 4.1.4. Feed rabbits ad lib.
- 4.1.5. Check automatic watering devices.
- 4.1.6. Empty water bottles, rinse and fill with fresh water.
- 4.1.7. Three times a week, remove wet bedding and empty litter pans. Replenish with fresh bedding.
- 4.1.8. Change cage pan liners three times per week, at a minimum.
- 4.1.9. Sweep the floor and empty the garbage container.
- 4.1.10. Replenish supplies in the room as needed.

4.2. Weekly:

- 4.2.1. Remove bedding and disinfect pens and surrounding walls, change food hoppers/bowls and litter pans once every two weeks. Environmental enrichment devices are cleaned and replaced at the time the pens are cleaned.
- 4.2.2. Change the cage banks every two weeks, at a minimum. . Only transfer one animal at a time to avoid unintentional mix-up of the animals. Change food hoppers/bowls, water bottles and environmental enrichment devices.
- 4.2.3. Mop floors with disinfectant solution.
- 4.2.4. Flush automatic watering system once per week.
- 4.2.5. Check light timers.
- 4.2.6. Flush the floor drains.

- 4.3. Monthly:
 - 4.3.1. Change the automatic water system's Pressure Reducing Station filter.
 - 4.3.2. Wipe down all surfaces such as sinks, doors, door jams and doorknobs, windows, cart tops, shelves, etc. with the disinfectant solution.
 - 4.3.3. Clean room exhaust grills.
- 4.4. Bi-annually:
 - 4.4.1. Wash all walls with disinfectant solution.

5. SPECIAL PROCEDURES

- 5.1. Sick or injured animals:
 - 5.1.1. Place a Veterinary Care card on the cage or pen of the sick or injured animal.
 - 5.1.2. Complete an Illness/Injury Report and submit it to the veterinary care staff.
- 5.2. Preparation disinfecting solution:
 - 5.2.1. Wear personal protective equipment when preparing and using disinfectant solution.
 - 5.2.2. Dilute according to manufacturer's recommendation.
 - 5.2.3. Clean surfaces prior to disinfection to remove any organic material.
 - 5.2.4. Apply disinfectant and allow for adequate contact time.