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**1. PURPOSE**

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This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the program for monitoring subclinical pathogens in rabbit colonies.

**2. RESPONSIBILITY**

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Animal care staff, veterinary care staff, facility supervisors, facility manager.

**3. MATERIALS**

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3.1. Blood collection materials

**4. PROCEDURES**

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- 4.1. Monitor rabbit populations that are housed for more than 6 to 8 weeks.
- 4.2. Selection of rabbits for sample collection:
  - 4.2.1. Randomly select two rabbits from the population being monitored
  - 4.2.2. Ensure that the rabbits are at least 8 weeks old.
  - 4.2.3. Ensure that the rabbits have been housed with the same population for more than 6 to 8 weeks.
  - 4.2.4. In addition, sample sick rabbits, euthanized rabbits or those found dead as instructed by a veterinarian.
- 4.3. Every 12 months, submit:
  - 4.3.1. Serology sample:
    - 4.3.1.1. Collect 1.5mL of blood, centrifuge and freeze serum.
    - 4.3.1.2. Serology profile should include at least the following tests:
      - 4.3.1.2.1. CAR Bacillus
      - 4.3.1.2.2. Encephalitozoon cuniculi
      - 4.3.1.2.3. Treponema
  - 4.3.2. Pooled fecal sample for parasitology testing:
    - 4.3.2.3. Collect at least 5 fecal pellets.
- 4.4. Sick animal or animals found dead:
  - 4.4.1. Consult veterinarian for additional instructions.
  - 4.4.2. Collect blood if possible for serology testing.
  - 4.4.3. Submit tissues and organs for pathology.
- 4.5. Health status reports:
  - 4.5.1. The facility veterinarian reviews all sentinel reports.
  - 4.5.2. If there are any health status problems, the veterinarian will contact the facility supervisor/manager and investigators concerned.

**SOP REVISION HISTORY**

DATE	PREVIOUS VERSION	NEW VERSION
2017.01.27	4.3.1.2.1. Tyzzer's	4.3.1.2.1. <del>Tyzzer's</del> CAR Bacillus