

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #508  
RODENT HUSBANDRY

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1. PURPOSE

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This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the basic procedures for routine care and husbandry of rodents.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

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Animal care staff, facility manager.

3. MATERIALS

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Cage cards

Rodent diet (within 6 months of the milling date)

Clean or sterilized water bottles or valves

Food and water:

- 4.4.1. Feed animals to meet current Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) recommendations for rodent nutrition.
- 4.4.2. Food and water is provided

Space requirements:

- 4.13.1. Provide cages that are appropriate in size for the number of rodents housed in them. Refer to CCAC recommendations.

Cleaning of cages:

- 4.14.1. Change cages at a frequency that ensures clean, dry bedding is present in the living and sleeping area of the cage, away from the soiled areas, and that maintains the air quality inside the cage within acceptable parameters as per CCAC recommendations.
- 4.14.2. Change cages at a frequency which promotes cleanliness without disturbing the cage environment unnecessarily to reduce the stress associated with cage cleaning and the potential impact on study data.
- 4.14.3. Frequency of cage changing will vary depending on cage size, caging system, type and number of occupants, type and amount of bedding, number of air changes per hour, etc.
  - 4.14.3.1. It is recommended to change ventilated cage bottoms at least every two weeks.
  - 4.14.3.2. It is recommended to change static cage bottoms at least once every week.
  - 4.14.3.3. Change cage bottoms containing wet or soiled bedding.
- 4.14.4. It is recommended to change cage components (grill, lid, water valve) at least every 4 weeks.

Cleaning and sanitation of housing room and equipment:

- 4.15.1. Weekly:
  - 4.15.1.1. Flush the floor drains.
  - 4.15.1.2. Change/clean prefilters in changing stations/biosafety cabinets
  - 4.15.1.3. Check light timers.
  - 4.15.1.4. Mop floors.
  - 4.15.1.5. Wipe down all surfaces such as sinks, doors, doorjambes and doorknobs, windows, cart tops, shelves, etc. with the disinfectant solution.
- 4.15.2. Monthly:
  - 4.15.2.1. Clean changing stations/biosafety cabinets: remove filters, vacuum, and drain.
  - 4.15.2.2. Clean room exhaust grills.
- 4.15.3. Annually:
  - 4.15.3.1. Wash racks.

Transportation:

- 4.16.1.

## 6. REFERENCES

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Canadian Council on Animal Care ([CCAC](#)) [guidelines: Mice](#), August 2019.

### SOP REVISION HISTORY

DATE	NEWVERSION
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