

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 500.6

Date Issued: 12/03

- e. The Clinical Veterinarian will be immediately notified of health concerns or deaths occurring in transit.
- f. New animals are recorded on the Per Diem Sheet and Progress Notes located in the Room Log Book. Notation in the Progress Notes will include the vendor source and a statement reflecting general appearance on arrival.

2. Handling and Restraint

- a. Birds may be handled by hand, with gloves, or toweled to facilitate manipulations.
- b. Restraint
 - 1. Finches/small birds - can be restrained with one hand placed over the bird's back and placing the head between the second and third finger.
 - 2. Pigeons/medium birds - position the bird so it is facing a corner/rear of enclosure; drape towel over the back; grasp the back of head with thumb and forefinger on either side of the mandibles; the palm is gently cupped around the bird's back and the towel wrapped around front. The body/feet are supported by the second hand.
 - 3. Chickens/large birds - Place a towel over the back and wrap the animal as it is lifted up; the head is secured behind by placing the thumb and forefinger on either side of the mandibles; the body supported by the second hand/forearm or on a counter surface.
Note – do not restrain chickens in dorsal recumbency as it inhibits breathing.
- c. When approaching a bird, move hands slowly over the back of the animal. Just prior to making contact, drop hands to hold wings down on the body. Restrain legs between fingers.
- d. Covering the head/eyes can calm the bird while being restrained. Be careful not to cover the nares.
- e. Care must be taken not to restrict movement in the chest or abdominal area of any bird while restraining, as they do not have diaphragms and cannot move air in or out of their air sacs if restrained incorrectly.

3. Housing

- a. Avian species are housed at a maximum density described in section III.7-8 or as described in an approved IACUC protocol.
- b. Social species are housed socially unless they exhibit incompatibility or single housing is described in the approved IACUC protocol.
- c. Avian species can exhibit dominance/aggressive behavior when group housed. If injuries are observed, the aggrTc 0 T.6(e0.5(a)104)[olovA6.6(nanc83(ur)-0()11.3

4. Feeding and Watering

- a. Refer to SOP #022 entitled, Feed and Bedding for a I-- #022

6. Cage Changing

- a. Pans and liners are changed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the animal room. Pan liners will be changed daily when excessively soiled and for brooder caging. Pan changing will be noted on the Room Status Sheet .
- b. Cages are changed weekly for pigeons and chicks, every two weeks for finches. Racks are changed weekly. Rack and cage changes will be noted on the Room Status Sheet . Animal will maintain its relative position on the new rack.
- c. Only one animal and its cage card will be moved at one time.
- d. Any caging excessively soiled will be changed as necessary to maintain an acceptable level of sanitation.
- e. Cages will be moved to the new rack so that they retain the exact same cage position as they held on the original rack. When the rack is put back into place, the relative positions of all cages must not have changed.

7. Brooder Procedures

- a. Capacity: 20 chicks, less than 3 weeks of age. Chicks over 3 weeks require alternate housing.
- b. Maintain temperature at 95°F for chicks.
- c. Adjust gates to feed and water troughs to the size of birds (large enough to allow access to feed and water, yet small enough to prevent escape). Gates should be checked and adjusted at least weekly.
- d. Water trough is filled daily and as often as necessary to keep trough full. Water trough is removed and cleaned twice weekly.
- e. Feed trough is filled daily and as often as necessary to keep trough full. Feed trough is removed and cleaned weekly.
- f. Brooder liner is changed daily.
- g. Brooder is thoroughly hand washed weekly with warm soapy water. Brooder and brooder components are not compatible with cage wash equipment.
- h. The brooder has two 7-watt lights; one is an attraction light and is always on, the second light only comes on when the heater is on.

8. Finch and Pigeon Cage Procedures

- a. Ideal capacity should be maintained at 1 finch per extra small cage, 2 finches per small cage, 3 breeding pairs or 10 or less females/juveniles per flight cage. Pigeons are housed with a minimum of 0.8 sq feet per animal when group housed. Additional space is provided when singly housed to ensure the ability to make normal postural adjustments.
- b. Water trough is filled, at a minimum, twice daily. Water trough is removed and cleaned thoroughly daily.
- c. Feed trough is removed, cleaned thoroughly, and re-filled daily.
- d.

9. Room Duties

- a. Upon completion of cage changing, feed and watering, and daily health surveillance, the following tasks are to be performed. Room duties described below are minimal requirements, additional duties and frequencies are at the Facility Manager's discretion:
 1. Complete Room Status Sheet by recording:
 - a. Minimum and maximum room temperature and humidity (measurements out of the acceptable range are described under the Health and Environmental Concern column of the Room Status sheet and reported to the Facility Manager via the Health and Environmental Concern Form).
 - b. Feed and water are available.
 - c. Caging and equipment changes performed.
 - d. Housekeeping duties performed.
 - e. Significant health or environmental concerns.
 - f. Time of observation and the initials of technician.
 2. Assure no investigator's supplies or trash is left in the room.
 3. Check and replenish supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels) as needed.
 4. Wipe down counter/sink areas with Sporidicin.
 5. Assure any new arrivals are recorded on appropriate Per Diem Sheets.
 6. Record any additions or subtractions made by room technician or research staff as observed.
- b. Bi-weekly room duties include:
 1. Sweep floor and mop with bleach solution (1:10 dilution).
- c. Weekly room duties include:
 1. Sanitize mop head.
 2. Wipe down door and doorframe with Sporidicin.
 3. Physically count animals within the room.
- d. Semi-monthly room duties include:
 1. Sanitize all room cleaning equipment (mop, broom, mop bucket, dust pan, etc.).
- e. Monthly room duties include:
 1. Clean HVAC vents and replace air filters as needed.
 2. Confirm diurnal light timers are accurately controlling animal room lights (HOBO) and record.
 3. Wash walls with Sporidicin as needed.

Approved:

Date: