

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 700.14

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TITLE:	Livestock Husbandry
SCOPE:	Animal Care Personnel
RESPONSIBILITY:	Facility Manager, Technical Staff, Veterinary Staff
PURPOSE:	To Outline the Proper Procedures for Receiving, Physical Examination, Evaluating Health Status, Handling, Care and Husbandry Practices Related to Livestock

I. PURPOSE

1. To ensure the highest quality of animal health and preclude the development of spontaneous diseases or disorders, which could compromise the integrity of studies and the interpretation of results.
2. To ensure personnel handling livestock perform their duties in a manner that complies with all current governing laws, regulations, and guidelines.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The Veterinarians oversee all aspects of animal health and are assisted by all program staff.
2. Facility Managers ensure implementation of all procedures.
3. Animal care staff are responsible for the implementation of this procedure.

III. PROCEDURES

1. Upon receipt of newly arrived animals, including those prepared for transfer to other facilities:
 - a. Shipping crates (if applicable) are inspected for signs of damage and shipment accuracy .
 - b. Animals are observed for signs of illness, injury, and/or deaths .
 - c. Animal care staff will notify the Facility Manager regarding any damage to crate(s) or animal health concerns.
 - d. The Facility Manager will notify the Fiscal & Business Specialist of damaged or rejected shipments , or orders improperly filled (i.e., weight, age, number requested).
 - e. Clinical Veterinarian will be immediately notified of health concerns or deaths occurring in transit.
2. Individual cage cards are prepared for each animal and include the following information:
 - a. Principal Investigator
 - b. IACUC #
 - c. Species
 - d. Sex
 - e. DOB (or age on arrival if unavailable)
 - f. Body weight
 - g. Arrival date
 - h. Source
 - i. Animal number

1. Can be moved using a lead or harness
 2. Restrain by gently pressing up against pen or wall to administer injections or treatments
 3. Blood withdrawal requires two persons, one to immobilize the head/neck, and the other to hold the vessel and obtain the sample.
7. Environmental Enrichment and Social Housing
- a. Appropriate social interactions among members of the same species and enrichment of the animal's environment are essential to normal development and well-being.
 - b. All livestock receive environmental enrichment, unless an exemption has been approved in writing by the IACUC.
 - c. Each animal will have a minimum of one enrichment device, either suspended inside the cage or on the floor inside the cage (e.g., flexi keys, rattle triangles, suspended plastic apples, Kong® toys on chain).
 - d. Any environmental changes made must be communicated to and approved by the researcher prior to implementation.
 - e. Single-housing of livestock should be the exception and should be justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being.
8. Feeding and Watering
- a. Refer to SOP #022 entitled, Feed and Bedding for specific diets. NOTE: procedures below are not for animals on special diets or water. Special

- b. Record "Room Disinfected" for the corresponding date on the Room Status Sheet and initial.

d. Room Housing

1. Daily

- a. Start at the side of the room farthest from the floor drain.
- b. Remove all piles of animal waste and hay from floor.
- c. Herd animals to one side of room and clean the other side of the room using the hose, and scrub brush if needed, taking care not to wet the animals.
- d. Herd animals to the clean side of the room and repeat steps.
- e. Rinse floor drain taking care not to flush hay down the drain.
- f. Rinse and refill water bowls/troughs.
- g. Squeegee floor dry.

2. Disinfection

- a. Active rooms are disinfected quarterly. The entire room, all pen floors (including underside), walls, doors, Lixits, room floors, walls, and floor troughs are thoroughly disinfected using pressure, and a degreasing cleansing solution (e.g., KrudKutter, Rubi-Crete).

