

SOP: **HU-04**

Title: **Husbandry Procedures for Rodents**

SOP Last Revision Date:  
14JUL10

## **PURPOSE**

This purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to outline the animal care requirements associated with the routine husbandry of rodents in accordance with recommendations set forth in the “*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.” This SOP applies to rodents housed in all the Laboratory Animal Research Core’s Animal Facilities on the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

## **POLICY**

It is LARC policy to meet or exceed all federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines and to comply with all institutional policies and procedures as they apply to the use of animals in research. Personnel must attend any applicable training in animal care and use, occupational health and safety, equipment operation, and Standard Operating Procedures prior to performing activities outlined in this SOP or work under the direct supervision of a trained LARC staff member.

## **REFERNCES**

- A. Laboratory Animal Research Core Personnel
- B. *EQ-02 Operation and Maintenance of the NuAire Laminar Flow Biological Safety Cabinet*
- C. *HU-03 Cage Changing Procedures*
- D. *HU-09 Finding Sick or Dead Animals*
- E. *SA-01 Personal Protective Equipment*
- F. *LARC-04 Abnormalities in Laboratory Mice*

## PROCEDURES

### **A. Health Observations**

- a. An Animal Technician (AT) is to observe daily all animals in each cage for signs of illness (see SOP *LARC-04*), injury or death, and if the animal has adequate food, water and proper environmental conditions.
- b. If a death or health abnormality is detected, follow procedures in SOP *HU-09 Finding Sick or Dead Animals*.
- c. Observe breeding cages daily. You will need to gently remove the cage from the rack so not miss a litter. If a litter is found, update the breeder card by indicating the date of birth. **Cages are not to be disturbed for 7 days post birth** (unless the cage is flooded or excessively soiled).

### **B. Husbandry – Daily**

- a. All cage changes are to be performed as described in SOP *HU-03*.
- b. Animals will be feed LARC designated irradiated diet unless instructed by researcher's. Each room will have its own feed barrel to help prevent disease spread. All feed barrels are to be labeled with feed type, milling date and expiration date. Feeders  $\frac{1}{4}$  full or less are to have fresh feed added. Feed that appears to be contaminated, moldy, etc. is to be discarded immediately and Area Supervisor notified.
- c. Water bottles less than half full should be replaced with fresh autoclaved water in a clean bottle.
- d. Spot changing is to occur for any cage showing signs that it requires changing.

### **C. Husbandry – Weekly**

- a. Spot changing is to occur for any cage showing signs that it requires changing.

### **D. Husbandry – Biweekly**

- a. A complete Full Cage Change (bottoms, wire bar lids, filter tops, new nestlet, and water bottles with fresh water) is to be performed at least once every two weeks on all cages and *more often if necessary*.
- b. Old feed is to be discarded and replaced with fresh feed.

#### **E. Sanitation**

- a. Floors are to be swept and mopped **DAILY** with a designated disinfectant.
- b. Room supply carts and metro racks (stainless steel portable racks) are to be organized, clutter-free and sanitized monthly (this is to be documented on the designated rack tag).
- c. Trash containers are to be emptied daily if needed and sanitized monthly.
- d. Feed barrels are to be sanitized monthly. This is to be documented on the barrel tag located on the barrel.
- e. All laminar flow hoods, cage changing stations & biosafety cabinets are to be disinfected after **each cage** and at the end of the day be wiped of gross debris and disinfected. They are to be completely sanitized monthly. This is to be recorded on the designated hood tag.
- f. If any equipment is to be transferred from one room to another it is to be sanitized first.
- g. Rooms/cubicles are to be sanitized before any animals are housed and at least monthly regardless if being used or not. This is to be recorded on Animal Room Maintenance Record (ARM) Record.
- h. Ventilated cage racks are to be sanitized at least once every six months.

#### **F. Documentation**

- a. All tasks are documented on the Animal Room Maintenance Record, Facility Housekeeping Record, Cage Census Record or designated tag with respect to each task performed.