

Sentinel Husbandry

Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes routine husbandry for sentinel animal cages.

Responsibility

Animal care staff.

Procedures

1. Identify cages with a SENTINEL cage card. Include the following information:
 - 1.1 Sentinel
 - 1.2 Protocol number
 - 1.3 Facility
 - 1.4 Room number
 - 1.5 Rack(s) number
 - 1.6 Number of animals in the cage
2. Observe all sentinel cages for illness, injury and general condition of animals daily. Report any abnormalities to the veterinary staff.
3. Sentinels must be exposed to all the cages in the room to be monitored (10-700) over a 2-week period.
4. Transfer one plastic teaspoon (~5mL) of dirty bedding from every cage monitored into a clean, empty cage (without bedding) during cage change. Total amount of dirty bedding should not exceed 500mL.
5. Transfer sentinels to cage with dirty bedding.
6. Record date of dirty bedding transfer on the back of the SENTINEL cage card.
7. Disinfect plastic teaspoon between sentinel cages.
8. Apply general Rodent Husbandry SOP for feed, water, environmental enrichment and cage changing.