

	Title: Feline Husbandry	SOP #	AV 32-200
		Version #	1
		Implementation Date	10/14/16
Page #	1 of 5	Next Review Date	10/14/19
Department	Attending Veterinarian		

Standard Operating Procedure

1. Purpose

To outline the minimum standards of care for cats based on the Public Health Service Policy and the *ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

2. Scope

All units providing animal care for cats must meet or exceed these minimum requirements.

3. Responsibilities

The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for ensuring that animal care units housing animals that are used in their Animal Care and Use Protocols (AUPs) are complying with this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

4. Procedure

Daily Tasks (365 days a year without exception):

- Observe each animal and check for health concerns.
- Record and report sick or dead animals in accordance with Daily Observation SOP (AV 20-105).
- Feed each animal appropriate for the individual's age and condition. Exemptions must be approved in animal care and use protocols.
- Expiration dates for food must be readily available per the SOP for Food Storage (AV 40-100).
- Food requiring refrigeration must be labeled with date opened and date of expiration.
- Provide sufficient potable water.
- Remove excreta and food waste to prevent soiling of cats.
- Spot clean cage or pen (include cage/pen walls, resting boards, resting boxes, and queening boxes) daily or as needed. If spot cleaning will require hosing, cats must either be taken out of the cage/pen/run during hosing or there must be enough space in the pen or on the resting boards for animals to avoid becoming wet.
- Record minimum and maximum temperatures (ideal room temperature range for cats is 64-84°F).



Title: Feline Husbandry

SOP #	AV 32-200
Version #	1
Implementation Date	10/14/16
Next Review Date	10/14/19

Page # 2 of 5

Department Attending Veterinarian

- Clean and organize room.
- Record completion of room tasks, initial, and date.

Biweekly (not to exceed once every 14 days):

- Clean and disinfect cages and gang pens. Cats must be removed from the cage/pen to prevent them from coming in contact with the disinfectant.
- Clean and disinfect feeders, water receptacles, resting boxes, queening boxes, litter boxes and resting boards.
- Clean and disinfect or change environmental enrichment. Disposable items should be discarded as soon as they are worn or soiled.

Quarterly (at least every 3 months):

- Clean and disinfect the animal room (includes walls, floors, and ceilings).

Facilities:

- Refer to Standard Operating Procedure for Facilities Maintenance (AV 50-102).
- If room temperature falls outside of the ideal range for longer than a brief period, Campus Services must be contacted.
- Minimum of 10-15 fresh room air exchanges are required.
- Floors should be moisture-resistant, nonabsorbent, impact-resistant, and relatively smooth.

Caging:

- Recommended floor space per cat:

Weight of Animal (kg)	Floor Area/Animal (ft ²)	Height (inches)
≤4	3.0	24
>4	4.0	24
Queens w/nursing kittens	Each kitten requires at least a 5% increase to the queen's minimum floor space	24

- Vertical space with perches is preferred and may require additional cage height.
- Caging must be in good condition and free of any damage that may cause injury.

	Title: Feline Husbandry	SOP #	AV 32-200
		Version #	1
		Implementation Date	10/14/16
Page #	3 of 5	Next Review Date	10/14/19
Department	Attending Veterinarian		

Identification:

- Cats (weaned and older) must be individually identified in addition to having an appropriately labeled cage card (refer to SOP AV 20-106 Identification of Animals).
- Cats can be permanently identified with a collar and tag, ear tattoo, or microchip. If cats are microchipped, the microchip reader must be readily available and functional.
- It is preferred that kittens removed from the queen prior to weaning age be identified; this may occur for experimental use or veterinary care related procedures.

Environmental Enrichment:

- Refer to SOP for Environmental Enrichment (AV 30-102).
- Each primary enclosure housing cats must contain a resting surface or surfaces that, in aggregate, are large enough to hold all the occupants of the primary enclosure at the same time comfortably.
- Cats should be provided with the ability to demonstrate species-typical behavior.
- Some examples of enrichment for cats include: balls, toys with catnip, scratch posts, cardboard boxes, cat beds.
- Devices used for environmental enrichment must be easily cleaned and disinfected or disposable.
- Devices must be checked regularly for wear and discarded when safety hazards are observed.

Social Housing:

- Single housing of social species should be considered the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about well-being.
- Whenever possible, cats should be socially housed and when they cannot, the period of time should be kept to a minimum and those animals should be offered positive interaction with animal care staff and offered additional enrichment items.

Euthanasia:

- Veterinary staff may euthanize sick animals following approved methods in the current *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*.

5. References

1. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources: Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals, National Academy Press, Eighth Edition (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910).

	Title: Feline Husbandry	SOP #	AV 32-200
		Version #	1
		Implementation Date	10/14/16
Page #	4 of 5	Next Review Date	10/14/19
Department	Attending Veterinarian		

2. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations. United States Department of Agriculture, 2013
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/Animal%20Care%20Blue%20Book%20-%202013%20-%20FINAL.pdf).
3. National Institutes of Health: Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm>).
4. The Federation of Animal Science Societies: Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 3rd Edition, 2010
http://www.fass.org/docs/agguide3rd/Ag_Guide_3rd_ed.pdf).
5. AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition
<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>).

6. Definitions

1. AV – Attending Veterinarian – responsible for the health and well-being of all laboratory animals used at the institution
2. AVMA – American Veterinary Medical Association – a not-for-profit organization for advancing the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health
3. SOP – Standard Operating Procedure – established or prescribed methods to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or in designated situations
4. IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee – responsible for assessment and oversight of the institution’s animal care program components and facilities
5. Chair – Chairperson of the IACUC
6. PI – Principal Investigator – a Central Oregon Community College employee having the background and training in scientific and administrative oversight necessary to conduct and manage the proposed study
7. AUP – Animal Care and Use Protocol – protocol created by the principal investigator of the proposed research, testing, or educational study
8. Protocol – Animal Care and Use Protocol – protocol created by the principal investigator of the proposed research, testing, or educational study
9. COCC – Central Oregon Community College
10. Guide – the *Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals*
11. AWA – Animal Welfare Act – requires that minimum standards of care and treatment be provided for certain animals bred for commercial sale, used in research, transported commercially, or exhibited to the public



Title: Feline Husbandry

SOP #	AV 32-200
Version #	1
Implementation Date	10/14/16
Next Review Date	10/14/19

Page #	5 of 5
Department	Attending Veterinarian

- 12. PHS – Public Health Service – establishes guidelines for the proper care of animals to be used in research
- 13. Clinical veterinarian – the Attending Veterinarian or designee

Revision	Author	Revisions Made	Effective Date	Approval
1	Cindy Elston	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New SOP	10/14/16	Cindy Elston (AV)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•		