

	<b>Title: Cleaning and Disinfection of Animal Cages and Accessories</b>	<b>SOP #</b>	AV 60-101
		<b>Version #</b>	1
		<b>Implementation Date</b>	11/13/2016
		<b>Next Review Date</b>	11/13/2019
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## Standard Operating Procedure

### 1. Purpose

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To outline the minimum requirements for cleaning and disinfecting animal cages and accessories.

### 2. Scope

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All units providing care for animals must establish standard operating procedures (SOPs) for cleaning and disinfecting animal cages and accessories based on the guidelines established by the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy, the *ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* as a component of the animal care program.

### 3. Responsibilities

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Principal Investigator and/or Facility Manager must develop standard operating procedures for cleaning and disinfecting animal cages and accessories and ensure compliance by animal care staff.

### 4. Procedure

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Adequate disinfection is dependent upon the temperature of the water and the duration of contact time with the chemical disinfectant.

Cages can be disinfected by rinsing at 180°F for at least three minutes (i.e. cage washing machine) or by use of appropriate chemical disinfectants.

Selection of disinfection agents should be based on knowledge of potential pathogens and their susceptibilities to the respective agents.

All organic debris should be removed from the floor, wall, ceiling, and door surfaces of the cage prior to disinfecting. Chemicals used for disinfection must be properly diluted by following manufacturer's guidelines. Chemicals should be thoroughly applied to all surfaces of the cage (floor, walls, ceiling, door) and allowed to stand for the time specified by the manufacturer. The disinfectant should be rinsed off with clean water if recommended by manufacturer (i.e. bleach). The cage should be allowed to dry completely prior to placing an animal in the cage.

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Disinfectants must be used according to manufacturer's guidelines to ensure appropriate dilution and contact time for disinfection. It is important to ensure that surfaces are rinsed free of residual chemicals if recommended by manufacturer.

Urine from some animals (rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters) has a high protein content and mineral concentrates. Cages may require a pre-treatment with an acid solution prior to washing.

Water bottles, drinking tubes, stoppers and other watering equipment should be washed and disinfected by rinsing with hot water (180°F) for three minutes, by use of appropriate chemical agents, or by autoclaving to destroy pathogenic organisms.

Soak food and water bowls in disinfectant, then rinse and air dry each item (or use a dishwasher). Soak litter pans in disinfectant, then rinse and air dry.

Toys should be kept with the same animal throughout their stay, then disinfect or dispose of the toy.

Refer to species specific husbandry policies for frequency for cleaning of cages and accessories.

## 5. *References*

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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](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910)).
2. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations. United States Department of Agriculture ([https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/Animal%20Care%20Blue%20Book%20-%202013%20-%20FINAL.pdf](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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2010 ([http://www.fass.org/docs/agguide3rd/Ag\\_Guide\\_3rd\\_ed.pdf](http://www.fass.org/docs/agguide3rd/Ag_Guide_3rd_ed.pdf)).



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**6. Definitions**

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1. AV – Attending Veterinarian – responsible for the health and well-being of all laboratory animals used at the institution
2. SOP – Standard Operating Procedure – established or prescribed methods to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or in designated situations
3. IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee – responsible for assessment and oversight of the institution’s animal care program components and facilities
4. 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
5. Guide – the *Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals*
6. 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
7. PHS – Public Health Service – establishes guidelines for the proper care of animals to be used in research
8. ILAR – Institute for Laboratory Animal Research – provide the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* to assist institutions in caring for and using animals in ways judged to be scientifically, technically, and humanely appropriate

Revision	Author	Revisions Made	Effective Date	Approval
1	Cindy Elston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New SOP</li> </ul>	11/13/16	Cindy Elston (AV)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		