



**Title:** Leopard Frog Room Maintenance

**SOP Number:** 006

**Purpose:** To provide the highest quality of care of Leopard Frogs housed in Animal Care Services facilities; and to prevent the spread of disease that could compromise research studies.

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## IDENTIFICATION

- A. Holding and individual/experimental tanks will be labeled:
  - 1. PI's name
  - 2. IACUC protocol number
  - 3. Species
  - 4. Number of animals
  - 5. Date of arrival

## ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

- A. The Principal Investigators, Graduate Students and/or Animal Laboratory Technicians will observe all animals daily.
- B. All animals are observed for evidence of illness or changes in behavior and the "Daily Observation Record" is completed. Signs of illness or distress in frogs include weight loss, lethargy, failure to eat, and change in appearance of skin, eyes or mucus membranes are noted when observed.
- C. Record the minimum and maximum temperature on the room temperature chart. Check the room for operational deficiencies. Report any problems to the ACS Facility Manager.
  - 1. Temperature ranges for Leopard Frogs shall remain between 65 and 75 °F.
  - 2. Light/dark cycle shall remain at 12/12 or 14/10.
- D. Water quality is important to the health of the frogs, so a standard set of procedures is followed to prepare water for use in the tanks (1 capful of dechlorinating solution per 5 gallons of water). Water bowls are cleaned at least once a week.
- E. Crickets and/or meal worms are offered 3 times per week. Food species are obtained from commercial vendors or local pet stores. Crickets will be dusted with a calcium and vitamin powder such as ReptiVite to prevent dietary insufficiencies. Live food items are placed on dry areas in the tanks, so they do not immediately drown. Frogs generally eat live prey items fairly quickly. Dead prey items will be removed during daily observations.
- F. When an investigator, technician or animal care personnel observes conditions, diseases or problems that require veterinary care or intervention- they will utilize the ACS card system to communicate and report the concerns to the appropriate veterinary staff members.

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## **OCCUPIED ANIMAL ROOMS SANITATION**

- A. Floors are swept and mopped with disinfectant mixed according to the manufacture's suggestions at least once a week.
- B. Door frames and vents are dusted once a week.

## **SANITATION/AQUARIUM CHANGES**

- A. Water pans changed twice a week at minimum.
- B. Tanks are normally given a complete cleaning and disinfecting only when all frogs in the tank have been permanently removed. The exception to this would be if a tank is in use for more than a month or in certain cases of disease. Aquaria to be changed once a month are washed in mechanical cage washer.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Everyone with access to the animal facility is responsible for informing the University Veterinarian when an animal becomes ill or a change in behavior is noted. Seriously ill animals should be reported **IMMEDIATELY** to the veterinarian. When an investigator, technician, or animal care personnel requires veterinary assistance, they should:

- A. Complete the "Animal Health Comments" on the Daily Observation Form in the notebook when needed. Indicate the animal number/cage ID, and problem observed, and ensure that the name (or initials) of the person making the report is recorded. Complete the appropriate ACS cards for reporting to the veterinary staff when necessary.
- B. Contact the University Veterinarian or the ACS Facility Manager at:

Dr. Tiffanie Brooks, ASC Attending Veterinarian  
806-834-8588 Office  
806-239-2120 Cell Phone

Dr. Paul Stonum, ACS Clinical Veterinarian  
806-834-7373 Office  
660-562-4425 Cell Phone

Sydnee Woodman, ACS Facilities Manager  
806-834-2872 Office  
602-758-0670 Cell Phone

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C. Provide all the above information to the individual contacted above. They will be the ones to give advice and authorization for the action(s) that should be taken.