



Title: Venomous Snake Room Care

SOP Number: 010

Purpose: To provide the highest quality of care for snakes housed in the Animal Care Services Facility in order to prevent the possible envenomation of a human caretaker and to provide the best husbandry for the animals.

ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

- A. All cages are locked. The Laboratory Animal Technician will observe the snakes without opening any cages. Any evidence illness or a change in behavior will be recorded in the "Daily Observation Record" and reported to the ACS Manager and/or the Principle Investigator.
- B. The Principle Investigators or Graduate Students will periodically observe animals and will provide all husbandry. A second person will always be present when cages are opened for feeding and care. Only people skilled at handling venomous snakes will be allowed to work with them.
- C. If a bite occurs, call 911 immediately. The pharmacy at UMC has CroFab antivenin on hand. It is a polyvalent mixture effective for all New World American pitvipers. (Please reference to SOP032 Snake Bite).
- D. Snakes are fed a minimum of once a month. Feces, shed skin and uneaten food are to be removed as soon as possible.
- E. Drinking water should monitored weekly. Snakes should not be without drinking water for more than 7 days.
- F. Minimum and maximum temperature are recorded daily on the room temperature chart. Room deficiencies are reported to the ACS Manager.

OCCUPIED ANIMAL ROOMS SANITATION

- A. Floors are swept and mopped with disinfectant mixed according to manufacturer's recommendations twice a week.
- B. Separate mops are provided in each room.
- C. Cages are to be constructed of a material impervious to moisture.
- D. Cages are sanitized weekly. (Animals will be placed in separate cages.)

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 "Sick Animal Card" in the Notebook. Indicate date, room number, animal number/cage ID, problem observed and name or initials of the person making the report.
- B. Contact the University Veterinarian or ACS Manager or PI:

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

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

Sydnee Woodman, Manager, Animal Care Services.
806-834-2872 Office
602-758-0670 Cell Phone

Dr. Lou Densmore, Professor, Biological Sciences
806-834-6479 Office
806-828-5787 Home
806-438-8028 Cell Phone

- C. Provide all the above information to the veterinarian and you will be advised and authorized on what action you should take.