



Title: Reptile Room Maintenance

SOP Number: 004

Purpose: To provide the quality care for reptiles housed in the Animal Care Services Facility and to prevent the development and spread of disease through responsible animal husbandry.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

- A. Only those certified by the Principal Investigator and who have received training in the proper handling of reptiles will be allowed to work with reptiles.
- B. Persons who handle reptiles should be familiar with the species and trained in their handling. Training should include notification of venomous species that may be present, pathogens, and the symptoms of potential zoonoses related to the species being housed.
- C. The Principal Investigator is responsible for advising all personnel to seek medical consultation and baseline physical examinations if they have any personal concerns about health-related issues. Personnel must also complete the Occupational Health and Safety Survey and understand the risks associated with working with these animals, including zoonosis and physical injury.
- D. Personal protective equipment must be available to staff.

OCCUPIED ANIMAL ROOMS SANITATION

- A. Floors will be swept weekly and mopped with disinfectant mixed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, at least monthly or as needed.
- B. Separate mops will be provided for each room.
- C. Walls and ceiling are sponge mopped with disinfectant mixed according to the manufacturer's recommendations, at least once every two months.
- D. Cages are to be constructed of moisture-proof materials to prevent degradation
- E. Cages will be sanitized as needed.
- F. Cage substrates will be replaced weekly or as needed. Substrates consisting of newspaper should be changed if soiled by feces.

ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING AND CARE

- A. The Laboratory Animal Technician, Principal Investigators, or Graduate Students will observe all animals daily.
- B. Any evidence of illness or a change in behavior will be recorded on the "Animal Treatment/Observation Form" and be reported to the Principal Investigator and the ACS Staff. Indicate date, animal number/cage ID, problem observed and the name or initials of the person making the report.
- C. Food and water will be replaced as necessary.
- D. Animals will be fed rodents, fruits or vegetables, insects, or commercial food. Selection of the appropriate food will depend on the species of reptile and their dietary needs, as determined

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by the Principal Investigator. Appropriate feeding schedules and diet will be posted in the animal rooms.

- E. Feces, shed skin, and uneaten food will be removed as soon as observed.
- F. All rooms housing reptiles will be maintained at a temperature range between 78 and 85°F. Temperatures will be recorded during the daily observations. Fluctuations beyond this range will be reported to the ACS Manager and/or the Principal Investigator.
- G. For water reservoirs that contain filters the filter will be cleaned weekly or as needed to maintain clean water flow.

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