



**Title:** Poultry Room Maintenance

**SOP Number:** 051

**Purpose:** To provide the highest quality of care for poultry housed in the Animal Care Services Facilities in order to prevent the development of disease or disorders that could compromise research studies, teaching or educational demonstrations.

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## **DAILY ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING**

- A. The Principal Investigators, Graduate Students and/or Animal Care Staff will observe animals daily.
- B. All animals are observed for any evidence of illness or a change in behavior and the "Daily Observation Record" is completed.
- C. Record the minimum and maximum temperature on the room temperature chart. Check the room for operational deficiencies. Report any problems to the ACS Manager. The room will be maintained at a temperature range between 70° and 85° F based on the following:
  1. From the day of hatch until 1 week of age, the temperature in the cages at bird level should be 85°F. The cages will have heated units (brooder lamps) to supply needed heat for the chicks. After the first week of age, decrease the temperature to 80° F + or – 2 degrees.
  2. Reduce the temperature by 5° per week, until reaching 70°F. Keep the temperature at 70°F for the remainder of the study.
  3. Note: If at any time the birds are panting, this is a sign that they are too hot. The temperature will be lowered appropriately. If the chicks huddle together or huddle under a heat lamp they are too cold and the temperature should be increased.
- D. Lighting will be dependent on age and the type of study. General guidelines are provided below.
  1. Broiler chicks: 1 to 2 days of age, 1 hour of dark and 23 hours of light; 3 days of age and older, 4 hours of dark and 20 hours of light
  2. Laying hens: 8 hours of dark and 16 hours of light.
- E. Food and water (unless specified) replaced as necessary. Any litter or debris in the feeders and waterers should be removed daily.
  1. Recently hatched chicks (1 to 4 days of age) upon arrival may be given water containing a commercially prepared electrolyte/vitamin supplement. Prepare the supplement as indicated by the manufacturer. Water without the supplement should also be available.
- F. For birds housed on the floor, the hard-surfaced floor will be covered with rubber mats covered with litter. As litter becomes compacted, fresh litter should be added to maintain sufficient depth to insure the comfort and health of the birds. Litter depth should be maintained at 2 to 4 inches.

## BIOCONTROL

Any one that has been exposed (handling, in close proximity to, entering a poultry house, walking through poultry litter, etc.) to birds, of any type (domestic or wild), outside the facility should NOT enter the poultry rooms without having showered and changed into clean clothes.

## OCCUPIED ANIMAL ROOM SANITATION

- A. Floors are swept and mopped with disinfectant mixed according to manufacturer's recommendations at least one time weekly. Use dedicated mops and mop buckets.
- B. Counters tops and sinks are cleaned and wiped daily.
- C. Door frames, lights and vents are sponge mopped once a week with a disinfectant mixed according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- D. Floors, walls and ceiling are hosed down, mopped and sprayed with disinfectant mixed according to manufacturer's recommendations every 6 weeks.

## SANITATION OF CAGES

- A. Cages containing poultry pads are changed a minimum of 3 times per week.
- B. Cage pan liners under suspended wire bottom cages are changed a minimum of 2 times per week.
- C. Dirty pads/bedding is disposed of into trash bags then into the building dumpster.
- D. Cage racks are sanitized every 6 weeks.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- A. PPE must be available and is recommended.
- B. Disposable shoe or boot covers should be worn, or rubber boots dedicated to the room should be worn.
- C. A mask and gloves in particular are recommended.
- D. Scrubs or a gown are recommended.

## 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 Treatment/Observation Form" in the Notebook. Indicate the date, room number, animal number/cage ID, and problem observed, and ensure that the name (or initials) of the person making the report is recorded.
- B. Contact the University Veterinarian or the ACS Facility Manager at:

Dr. Tiffanie Brooks, University 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

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