



Title: Cat Husbandry

SOP Number: 052

Purpose: To provide the highest quality of care for cats housed at Texas Tech University animal facilities in order to prevent the development of disease or disorders that could compromise research studies. And to provide an environment that promotes their physical and psychological well-being.

PROCUREMENT

- A. Cats will be purchased or loaned from USDA inspected facilities.
- B. A copy of the health records for each cat will be required from the supplier.
- C. A TTU employee will pick up the cats and transport them to the Animal Facility in an environmentally controlled vehicle.

RECEIVING

- A. Upon arrival, cats will be treated for internal and external parasites if needed.
- B. A physical exam is conducted for each cat to ensure no obvious abnormalities are present. This will also include temperature and weight. An exam form is filled out and signed by the veterinarian for each cat.
- C. If cats do not have a record of vaccinations then they will be vaccinated with a 4-way feline vaccine (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia, Chlamydia) and rabies.
- D. A USDA Record of Acquisition will be filled out for each cat and kept on file.
- E. Each cat will have a photograph ID card to be mounted on the front of the kennel.
- F. At the end of the study, a USDA Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats will be filled out and kept on file.
- G. Due to the social housing of cats (usually two cats/cage), those that arrive intact may need to be neutered or spayed, especially the tom cats. Tom cats fight with other males and will breed females.

ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

- A. Daily: the Principle Investigator, Graduate Students, Technician or Animal Care Personnel must observe all animals for any evidence of disease, injury, illness or a change in behavior.
- B. The "Daily Observation Record" must be completed. Record by the correct day the following information:
 - 1. The number of animals observed.
 - 2. The health status of the animals.

3. The ID of any animal that has evidence of disease, injury, illness or a change in behavior and any comments.
 4. Initials of the observer.
- C. All animal health comments must be recorded on the “ANIMAL TREATMENT/OBSERVATION RECORD”. Each animal has an individual treatment record.
 - D. Check for room deficiencies.
 - E. Record high and low temperature and humidity.
 - F. Check off TASK Sheet.

HOUSING AND CARE

- A. Cats may be kept single housed or in compatible groups in a 4'x 8' kennel. Cats displaying aggression will not be housed together.
- B. Litter boxes will be sifted daily and sanitized weekly.
- C. Beds/towels will be provided for comfort and changed as needed.
- D. Water bowls will be rinsed and refilled with fresh water daily.
- E. Discard uneaten food; add fresh food once or twice daily.
- F. Sanitize food and water bowls weekly.
- G. Check feed expiration date. Replace expired feed and clean barrel in between.
- H. At least once every two weeks, all animals and items will be removed to sanitize the room or kennel.

HEALTH CARE

Everyone with access to the animal facility is responsible for informing the Clinical 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 individual's "Animal Treatment Record" in the Notebook. Indicate the date, room number/ pen number/animal number/cage ID, the problem observed, and ensure that the name (or initials) of the person making the report is recorded.
- B. Contact the Clinical 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, Facilities 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.