



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SOP Number:	405	Starling Daily Health Check & Husbandry	Revision #:	0
Date Effective:	10/15/19		Supersedes:	0

Author(s):	Amanda Larson	Sign: <i>Amanda C. Larson</i>	Date: 10.9.2019
Director:	Dr. Gregory Lawson	Sign: <i>Gregory Lawson</i>	Date: 10/9/2019

PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to define the daily assessment of starling health and the provision of husbandry.

SCOPE

This SOP covers the procedures to be followed during the starling daily health check and husbandry practices in all facilities on the UC Berkeley campus.

RESPONSIBILITY

These duties are the responsibility of all OLAC employees providing care for starlings on the UC Berkeley campus.

DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS

- OLAC: Office of Laboratory Animal Care
- OASIS: Office of Animal Services Information System
- AHT: Animal Health Technician
- PI: Principal Investigator
- Heavily soiled: 50% or more of the item is soiled with feces, urine, food, and/or water.
- Ad-lib: ad libitum, Not restricted, constant access to the referred item.

PROCEDURE

1. Check "Special Service Requests" prior to conducting work in the aviary for exceptions to standard husbandry practices.
2. Safety Considerations:

- a. The outdoor aviary is naturally sloped and the floor is composed of dirt, natural grasses, and weeds.
    - i. Wear shoes with grip and take care when working in the area.
  - b. Moving or lifting anything above the head is discouraged.
3. Health: Check every occupied aviary daily (including weekends and holidays). Perform health check in the morning, unless directed otherwise by the Facility Supervisor or Veterinarian (See Appendix "Starling Health Concern Examples").
  - a. If a health concern is found, notify vet staff per SOP 621- OLAC Health Communication.
  - b. If a health concern that is immediately reportable is found, follow the same procedure as reportable conditions, and in addition, an AHT/Veterinarian will be notified.
4. Dead animals: Remove dead animals and place in a bag.
  - a. Label bag with leg band ID (if present), aviary number, PI information, and date.
  - b. Place the carcass within the labeled bag into the labeled day of the week or PI bin in the carcass storage area (NAF necropsy room). Keep carcasses for 7 days and dispose of in a biohazard bin after that.
  - c. Enter this information into OASIS in order to notify the PI.
5. Loose bird:
  - a. Contact an AHT/Veterinarian immediately. Enter into OASIS.
6. Feed: Check and top off feed/feeders daily. Feed animals ad-lib.
  - a. Change/Sanitize feeders monthly, or more often as needed.
  - b. Do not place feeders below perches. Remove and replace heavily soiled, wet, and/or moldy feed and feeders.
7. Water: Provide fresh water ad-lib.
  - a. Rinse and refill water containers daily.
  - b. Change/Sanitize water containers weekly, or more often as needed.
  - c. Do not place water below perches. Remove and replace heavily soiled water containers.
8. Enclosure: Inspect enclosure daily for damages, security breaches, and other facility services.
  - a. Ensure the secondary door is closed prior to opening and entering an aviary to prevent animals from escaping.
  - b. Rake ground underneath and around perches weekly, or more often as needed.
  - c. Hose feces off the wire and corrugate around the feed and shelter/perching areas weekly, or more often as needed.
  - d. Keep the aviary door closed at all times. Lock aviary door when husbandry is complete to prevent animals from escaping.
9. Nest Boxes: Lab will place and monitor nest boxes.

## REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- 621- OLAC Health Communication

REVISION HISTORY			
REVISION NUMBER	AUTHOR(S)	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION(S)

## Appendix

### Starling Health Concern Examples:

*This list is non-inclusive and other health concerns may arise. If unsure, always contact the vet staff.*

#### Reportable Health Concerns:

**Must be reported, but does not require immediate emergency veterinary notification**

- Fluffed
- Limping
- Animals found dead

#### Immediately Reportable Health Concerns:

**Must be reported and requires immediate emergency veterinary notification**

- Open mouth breathing
- Entrapment
- Predator intruder