

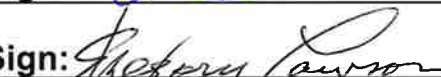




OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	103	Guinea Pig Health Check	Revision #:	0
Date Effective:	4/5/24		Supersedes:	0

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PROCEDURE

All work instructions must be demonstrated by the trainer and performed by the trainee.

1. Health Check:

- Perform health checks in the morning unless instructed otherwise by the Facility Supervisor or Veterinarians.
- Assess every cage for health abnormalities, use a flashlight when necessary.
 - Use a step stool for mid and high-level cages.
 - Lower cages can be visualized by either removing the cage from the rack or by kneeling on knees.
- Mark health concerns with a pink health check Post-it® and immediately report the health concern by sending a message to the “health-usda” slack group.
- Remove dead animals from the cage and place in a bag.
 - Label the bag with room number, cage number, date, and PI name.
 - Mark the cage card with a red dot labeled “FDIC”, the number of animals found dead, and the date.
 - Place the carcass into the bin with the corresponding day of the week in the carcass storage area.
 - Report the dead animal by sending a message to the “health-usda” slack group.

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

<u>Emergency Health Concerns</u>	<u>Non-Emergency Health Concerns</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hunched posture & scruffy (ruffled) fur: With no/low activity level ● Moribundity: Near death ● Breathing problems: Exaggerated, increased or decreased breathing ● Paralysis: Complete loss of use of one or more limbs ● Dystocia: Problems or difficulty giving birth ● Seizure: May lay on side and paddle or rhythmically move limbs ● Severe wounds: Large or deep open wounds ● Masses or swelling: Anywhere on the body, with open wounds ● Prolapse (uterine, vaginal, rectal and penile): Tissue that is normally held within the body is hanging outside of the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low Body Condition/Thin Body ● Overweight ● Hunched posture & scruffy (ruffled) fur: With normal activity level ● Malocclusion: Misaligned or overgrown teeth ● Dermatitis: Inflamed/irritated skin or skin lesions ● Fighting/Minor fight wounds: animals observed fighting and/or pinpoint lesions (animals will be separated immediately) ● Necrotic digits: Digits (fingers/toes) appear discolored ● Masses or swelling: Anywhere on the body, with no open wounds ● Microphthalmia/Anophthalmia: Small/absent eye ● Eye conditions: Swelling, discharge, discoloration, or bulging ● Gait/Locomotion: Problems moving around normally, staggering, or limping ● Head tilt: Head is tilted to one side and/or animal is rolling or circling ● Abnormal skin color: Yellow, blue or pale

2. Feed:

- Feed animals approved diet ad libitum.
- Feed must be at least half ($\frac{1}{2}$) full and free of mold/moisture.
- Fill the food hopper with food once it falls below half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the food hopper.
- Check and clear the base of the feeder if blocked with debris (Ex: excess cage bedding).

3. Bedding/Cage:

- Assess each cage for flooding, heavy soiling, mold, and/or defective parts. Change cages found with heavy soiling, floods, mold, and/or defective parts.

4. Water:

- Provide water ad libitum from an approved source (NAF cage wash bottle filler, NAF hydropac water hose, LKS hydropac water hose).
- Replace water that is less than half ($\frac{1}{2}$) full.

5. **Enrichment:**
- a. Place enrichment into each cage according to the “Guinea Pig Enrichment” schedule posted in the housing room.
 - Enrichment offerings include hay and other approved fresh vegetables and fruits.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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