






OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	109	Guinea Pig Cage Change	Revision #:	0
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PROCEDURE

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

Setup:

1. Collect all supplies necessary for the cage change. Supplies include:
 - a. Clean guinea pig cage(s)
 - b. PVC tubes and/or other approved enrichment devices
 - c. Food hoppers
 - d. Wire bar lids
 - e. Water bottles, sipper tubes, and water supply from an approved water source (NAF cage wash bottle filler, NAF hydropac water hose, LKS hydropac water hose).

Standard Guinea Pig Cages:

1. Change the cages using proper lifting techniques as demonstrated by the trainer.
2. Move the dirty cage onto a table or other approved surface for cage change.
3. Set up a clean cage next to the dirty cage.
4. Transfer the animal(s) from the dirty cage to the clean cage using proper guinea pig handling techniques.

- a. Assess each animal for health concerns.
5. Add edible enrichment to the new cage (if applicable).
6. Add a new wire bar to the clean cage or transfer the wire bar lid from the original cage (if applicable).
 - a. Ensure the back and front latch of the wire bar lid hooks over the lip of the cage to secure it into place.
7. Transfer the cage card holder from the original cage to the new wire bar lid.
8. Add new water bottles and sipper tubes to the wire bar lid.
 - a. Check all sipper tubes to ensure they are functioning properly.
 - b. Check and ensure the bottle and sipper tube are accessible by the animals in the cage and adjust placement as needed on the wire bar lid.
9. Add a new feeder to the wire bar lid or transfer the feeder from the original cage to the new one (if applicable).
 - a. Fill or top off the feeder as necessary.
 - b. Check and ensure the opening of the feeder is facing towards the animals and is accessible.
10. Add a new PVC tube to the clean cage or transfer the original tube to the new cage (if applicable).
11. Return the clean cage to the appropriate rack location.
12. Place the empty dirty cages on a cart or flatbed and take them to the dirty cage wash area.

Breeder Tub Guinea Pig Cages:

1. Place the breeder tub on the floor of the housing room using proper lifting techniques as demonstrated by the trainer.
 - a. Wear knee pads if necessary, during cage change.
2. Set up a clean breeder tub near the dirty breeder tub to be changed.
3. Transfer the guinea pig(s) and pups (if present) from the dirty tub to the adjacent clean tub using proper handling techniques.
 - a. Assess each animal for health concerns.
4. Add new bottles and sipper tubes to the bottle holders of the new tub.
 - a. Check all sipper tubes to ensure they are functioning properly.

- b. Check the sipper tubes to ensure they are secure in the bottles to prevent leaking or flooding of the cage.
 - c. Ensure the sipper tube is facing toward the animal(s).
- 5. Add fresh Guinea pig diet to the food hopper in the new breeder tub.
 - 6. Add approved edible enrichment to the new breeder tub (if applicable).
 - 7. Add clean enrichment devices (tubes/toys/hiding hut) to the new breeder tub (if applicable).
 - 8. Cover the breeder tub with an approved wire bar lid and return it to the appropriate rack location.
 - 9. Place the empty used breeder tubs on a flatbed and take to the dirty cage wash area.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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