



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

# Working Instructions

<b>WIN Number:</b>	201	<b>Reptile Health, Room Check and Feeding</b>	<b>Revision #:</b>	0
<b>Date Effective:</b>	8/30/23		<b>Supersedes:</b>	0

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## PROCEDURE

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

1. Perform all daily health checks and cage check first thing in the morning (including weekends and holidays) unless instructed otherwise by the Facility Supervisor or Veterinarians.
  - a. Check "Special Service Requests" posted on the back of the door before beginning husbandry duties.
  - b. Record room temperature and humidity on a daily checklist if applicable and report to the Facility supervisor or assistant supervisor if values are out of range and document communication in the "Notification of Facility Issues". (Reset Hygrometer)
  - c. Check the cage/enclosure is secure and the animal(s) is in the cage.
  - d. Prior to opening any cages, inspect the room to ensure that the area is secure, and no reptile can escape.
    - If there are any issues found with room security, immediately report to facility supervisor and do not open cages until the issue is corrected or it is determined safe to do so by the facility supervisor or veterinary staff.
2. Assess every cage for health abnormalities, use a flashlight when necessary. Use a step stool for mid and high-level cages/enclosures. Lower cages can be visualized by either removing the cage from the rack or by kneeling onto knees.
  - a. All health concerns should be marked with a pink health check Post-it® and enter into OLAC approved reporting software. If it is an urgent health concern also report via "Health non-USDA" slack group.

## b. If animals are found outside their enclosure:

- Notify facility supervisor and veterinary staff immediately.
- Use a net and catch the animal, if possible, to do it safely.
- If AT cannot catch the animal safely, notify vet staff and/or facility supervisor via the OLAC approved reporting software and wait for assistance before attempting to catch the animal.

<b><u>Non-Emergency Health Concerns</u></b>	<b><u>Emergency Health Concerns</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improper shedding or retained shed</li> <li>• Swelling of the eyes</li> <li>• Ulcerations around the mouth or on the skin</li> <li>• Missing digits</li> <li>• Masses or swelling: anywhere on body with no open wounds</li> <li>• Lack of appetite</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Thin appearance</li> <li>• Tail injury (missing or shortened)</li> <li>• Wounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased respiratory rate or effort</li> <li>• Open mouth breathing</li> <li>• Prolapse (cloacal)</li> <li>• Weakness</li> <li>• Paralysis</li> <li>• Masses or swellings: Anywhere on body with open wounds</li> <li>• Severe wounds: large or deep open wounds</li> </ul>






## 3. If you find a dead animal remove from the cage and place it in a bag labeled with appropriate sticker, put a red dot with the date and number found dead (FDIC) on the cage, enter the information in OLAC approved reporting software.

- Properly label the carcass bag, by indicating PI/Lab, cage ID number, rack number, location and date.
- Place the bagged carcass in the Weill Hall necropsy designated freezer (room 36).
- If the found dead is the last animal in the cage, remove the cage card and deactivate.

## 4. Feeding:

- Feed animals as indicated in the Reptile Feeding Chart.
- If an animal was fed the previous day, observe the amount of feed remaining in the cage.
  - If signs of decreased appetite are suspected, submit a health report via the OLAC approved reporting software.

## Reptile Feeding Chart:

Species		Feed Type	Portion	Frequency
	House Gecko ( <i>Hemidactylus</i> sp.)	2-3 wkr. crickets Wax worms	3-5 each	2 times a week (Tues and Thurs)
	Crocodile Gecko ( <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> )	2-3 wkr. crickets Wax worms	3-5 each	2 times a week (Tues and Thurs)
	Australian Velvet Gecko ( <i>Oedura monilis</i> )	5 wkr. crickets Wax worms	3 each	2 times a week (Tues and Thurs)
	Crested Gecko ( <i>Correlophus ciliates</i> )	1 part Pangea Gecko Diet + 2 parts water Wax worms	½ tsp Pangea Gecko Diet each	2 times a week (Tues and Thurs)
		5 wkr. crickets	5 each	Once a week (Wed)
	Tokay Gecko ( <i>Gekko gekko</i> )	5 wkr. crickets Wax worms	3-5 each	2 times a week (Tues and Thurs)

### 5. Water:

- Animals must have water provided at all times.
- Fill water bowls at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- Water should be clean and free of debris.
- Certain species will need misting to provide water.
  - If misting is necessary, mist cages using potable water in a spray bottle.
  - Provisions of misting and frequency may be modified by a veterinarian based on health status or species.

### 6. Reptile weights:

- Weigh all reptiles during cage change, to assess health status.
- Record weights in the logbook located in the anteroom on the appropriate sheets.
- If weight gain or loss of 10% is noted, report via "Health non-USDA" slack group.

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- d. Once an animal is no longer in the facility (either transferred or euthanized), make a note in the logbook with the date the animal was removed from campus. This record will then be removed from the logbook.

7. Cage change:

- a. Remove and place the animal in the weigh container.
- b. Remove all feeders and environmental enrichment (fake plants, hides, rocks, etc).
- c. Dispose of bedding (sand, bark, dirt, etc.)
- d. Spray the cage(s) with approved disinfectant, wash and clean feeders/environmental enrichment and dry the cage or rinse well with hot water.
- e. Replace the bedding that is appropriate for the species, feeders and environmental enrichment.
  - Tropical reptiles- soil and substrate
  - Desert reptiles- sand

## REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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