
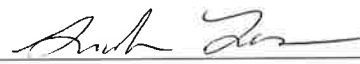
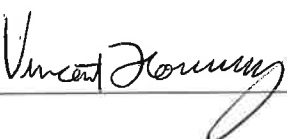




OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

# Working Instructions

<b>WIN Number:</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>Songbird Health Check</b>	<b>Revision #:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Date Effective:</b>	<b>1/6/25</b>		<b>Supersedes:</b>	<b>0</b>

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## PROCEDURE

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

1. Look through the window before entering the housing room to ensure there are no loose birds.
  - a. If a bird is found outside of its enclosure, enter the housing room carefully to ensure the bird does not escape the housing room.
  - b. Place a sign on the exterior door notifying others that a loose bird is present in the housing room.
  - c. Contact Facility Supervisor and Veterinary Staff for assistance.

### Health Check:

- a. Perform health checks in the morning, unless instructed otherwise by the Facility Supervisor or Veterinarian.
- b. Observe animals within each cage and assess animal health.
- c. Label all health concerns with a pink health post-it placed on the cage card and enter the health concern into approved OLAC reporting software.
  - Emergency health concerns will follow the same procedure as above and in addition, notify the veterinary staff immediately via "health-non-usda" slack group.
- d. Remove any dead animal(s) from the cage and place it in a bag.
  - Label bag with PI name, cage barcode number, room number and date.
  - Enter this information into approved OLAC reporting software.
  - Place the bagged and labeled carcass into the designated carcass storage area.
- e. Remove eggs found outside of the nest box and place them into a bag.
  - Place the bag in the designated carcass freezer.

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

<u>Non-Emergency Health Concerns</u>	<u>Emergency Health Concerns</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fluffed</li> <li>● Dropped wing</li> <li>● Thin appearance</li> <li>● Wounds (ie, around the eyes, at the tail base, around the neck, around the leg bands, on the bottom of the feet)</li> <li>● Lameness</li> <li>● Feather loss</li> <li>● Overgrown or uneven beaks</li> <li>● Overgrown nails</li> <li>● Diarrhea</li> <li>● Regurgitation (observed as dry, crusted seed on beak)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Open mouth breathing</li> <li>● Increased respiratory rate or effort</li> <li>● Prolapse (cloacal)</li> <li>● Weakness</li> <li>● Masses or swellings: Anywhere on with open wounds</li> <li>● Severe wounds: large or deep open wounds</li> <li>● Lethargy or torpor</li> <li>● Wide stance, abdominal straining, low on the limbs</li> </ul>

## 2. Food:

- Provide food and high calcium grit ad libitum.
- Refill feeders and grit containers that are less than ½ full.
- Remove empty hulls and husks from the feeders and grit containers as necessary.
- Observe the feeder and grit containers for signs of heavy soiling, mold, and/or pests.
  - If any are present, replace the feeder, grit container, grit, and feed.

## 3. Water:

- Provide water ad libitum
- Replace water bottles and waterers that are less than ½ full.
  - Two (2) waterers per double flight cage
  - One (1) small waterer per small cage
- Check sipper tubes for water flow and replace leaky and/or malfunctioning bottles.

## 4. Enrichment:

- Place enrichment into each cage according to the "Songbird Enrichment" schedule posted in the housing room.
  - Enrichment offerings include lettuce, egg supplement, nesting materials, cuttle bones, and bird baths.
- Refill water baths with water from the housing room sink, if present.

## 5. Cage Liners:

- Assess each cage for flooding, heavy soiling, mold, and/or defective parts.
- Change the cage liners found with any of these conditions.
  - Open the cage door and remove the feeder and waterer (if present).
  - Remove the cage liner from the cage and discard.

- Place a new cage liner on the floor of the cage. Check to make sure no animals are stuck between the cage floor and the new liner.
- Place the feeder and waterer back into the cage (if applicable).

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

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

