



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	403	Hummingbird Feeding and Health Check	Revision #:	0
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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. Do not enter the room if a bird is loose.
 - b. Place a sign on the exterior door notifying others that a loose bird is present in the housing room.
 - c. If bird escapes while in the room, leave the room carefully so as not to let the bird out and hang sign
 - d. Contact an AHT or veterinarian via "Health non-USDA" slack group
 - e. Assist supervisor or veterinary staff as needed to catch loose bird(s).
2. Check every cage/aviary in the morning unless instructed otherwise by the Facility Supervisor or Veterinarians.
 - a. Check room temperature/humidity and record values on the room checklist.
 - When values are out of range, report to the Facility Supervisor and document communication in the "Notification of Facility Issues" section of the Hummingbird room checklist.
3. Check "Special Service Requests" prior to conducting work in the room for exceptions to standard husbandry practices. "Special Service Requests" are either posted on the back of the door or the cage level.

4. Safety:

- a. Use a step stool, for mid and high-level cages.
 - Moving or lifting anything above the head is discouraged.

5. Feeding:

- a. Feed birds before 10:00 am.
 - New feeder solution(s) is mixed as deemed necessary.
 - Uneaten nectar is replaced with a newly mixed solution.
- b. Collect mixing container(s), clean measuring spoon(s), and nectar powder (e.g., Nektar-Plus) from the countertop.
- c. In a clean mixing container, mix nectar as per instructions below. **Note:** these instructions are posted above the sink in the housing room.
 - Re-assemble the feeders from the previous day's cleaning or use new syringes.
 - Each bird should be supplied with four (4) 10 ml syringes to equal 40 mls of nectar total.
 - Mix 1.5 tsp of nectar powder and 40 mls of DI water in a clean mixing container until it is completely dissolved into the water.
 - Draw 10 ml of nectar feeding solution into each clean syringe.
 - To remove bubbles, draw a little solution into the syringe, push it out, then refill the syringe to the 10 ml mark.
 - Place flower feeders on the tip of each syringe.



- Hang the feeders on the wire holders.



- Check for leaks in the syringe and flower feeder once feeders are in place inside the cage.
- Replace leaky or malfunctioning parts and refill with more nectar if any was lost during the leaking.
- d. Scrub feeders thoroughly with brush, if necessary.
 - Soak used feeders in fresh hot water
- e. Rinse thoroughly with fresh hot water and place feeders on the test-tube rack next to the sink to dry.
- f. Discard empty, used syringes if older than two weeks.
 - Label new syringes with date when put into use.

6. Health:

- a. Assess animal health within every cage/aviary .
 - Label all health concerns with a pink health post-it and enter into approved OLAC reporting software.
 - Any emergency health concerns will follow the same procedure as above and in addition, notify the AHT/Vet immediately via “Health non-USDA” slack group.

Non-Emergency Health Concerns

- Fluffy
- Dropped wing
- Thin appearance
- Wounds (ie, around the eyes, at the tail base, around the neck, around the leg bands, on the bottom of the feet)
- Lameness
- Feather loss
- Overgrown or uneven beaks
- Overgrown nails
- Diarrhea
- Regurgitation

Emergency Health Concerns

- Open mouth breathing
- Increased respiratory rate or effort
- Prolapse (cloacal)
- Weakness
- Masses or swellings: Anywhere on body with open wounds
- Severe wounds: large or deep open wounds
- Lethargy or torpor
- Wide stance, abdominal straining, sitting low on the limbs

7. Dead animals:

- a. Remove dead animals and place them in a bag.
- b. Label bag with bird ID (if present), cage number, and PI information.
- c. Mark the cage card with a red dot labeled “FDIC”, the number of animals found dead, and the date.
- d. Enter this information into approved OLAC reporting software.
- e. Place the carcass in the labeled bag into the labeled day of the week or PI bin in the carcass storage area.
- f. OLAC staff will dispose of carcasses older than 7 days in a biohazard bin

8. Cage:
- Change cage liners as deemed necessary, or more often if heavily soiled.
 - Sanitize cages as deemed necessary or once the cage is unoccupied.
 - Remove netting material and wash in the laundry under gentle cycle/warm water (Typically performed by PI/lab).
 - Wipe PVC framing with approved disinfectant and let stand for minimum contact time.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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