



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	406	Chicken Health Check	Revision #:	0
Date Effective:	1/25/24		Supersedes:	0

Author(s):	Amanda Larson	Sign:		Date: 2-1-2024
	Satori Le	Sign:		Date: 2/1/2024
Director:	Dr. Gregory Lawson	Sign:		Date: 1-31-2024

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 Veterinarian.
- Observe animals within each cage and assess animal health.
- Label all health concerns with a pink health post-it placed on the cage card, and enter 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.

Non-Emergency Health Concerns

- Fluffed
- Feces caked around cloaca
- Pododermatitis (bumblefoot)
- 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

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
- Wide stance, abdominal straining, sitting low on the limbs

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhea • Regurgitation (observed as dry, crusted seed on the beak) | |
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- d. Remove dead animal(s) from the cage and place 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.

2. Food:

- Provide food ad libitum
- Refill feeders that are less than ½ full.
- Observe the feeder for signs of heavy soiling, mold, pests. Replace feeder and feed if any are present.

3. Water:

- Provide water ad libitum
- Empty, rinse, and refill the water container using the sink in the anteroom.

4. Cage Liners:

- Open the cage door & remove the feeder and water container from the cage, then remove and discard the soiled paper liner.
- Place a new paper liner in the tray. Check to make sure chickens are not stuck between the cage and the pan.
- Place the feeder and water container back into the cage, then close the cage door.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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