

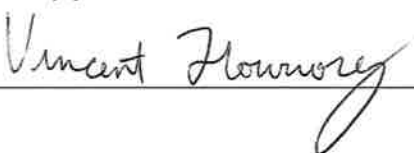




OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	502	Colony Fruit Bat Care	Revision #:	0
Date Effective:	3/25/25		Supersedes:	0

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PROCEDURE

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

1. Ensure the door to the corridor is fully closed prior to entering housing rooms from the anteroom to prevent animal escape.
2. Collect the necessary supplies:
 - a. Colony bat food (stored in the NAF 112 walk in fridge)
 - b. Clean bowls
 - c. Clean water bottles and sipper tubes
 - d. Empty, lined biohazard trash can
 - e. Dustpan
 - f. Broom or scraper
 - g. Squeegee
 - h. Hose foamer filled with approved disinfectant
3. **Safety:**
 - a. Be aware of other people, objects, and animals in the room at all times.
 - b. Prior to stepping, walking, and/or moving items in the room, ensure there are no bats on the floor or near the wheels.
 - c. Stabilize and lock carts and other moveable objects prior to use to ensure no bats are injured if the object is moved.
 - d. Floors may be slippery from routine cleaning and/or food substrate.

Room cleaning:

1. Remove the leftover food from the colony room by scooping it with a dustpan and discard the food into a lined biohazard trash can.
2. Remove hanging bowls, skewers, and other food and/or water devices, and discard leftover food (if applicable) into the biohazard trash can.
 - Place the empty skewers, bowls, and other feeding devices into the empty food bin for transportation to the cage wash area.
3. If there is no leftover food present, send a message to the health-usda slack group indicating there was no leftover food and include the room number in the message.
4. Sweep the floor and discard swept debris into a biohazard trash can.
5. Check for bats on the floor that cannot fly.
 - If bats are present on the floor, don approved bite gloves and place the bat on a perch or into a holding cage.
 - Report the bat to the veterinary staff by sending a message to the health-usda Slack group.
6. Attach the hose foamer to the hose nozzle.
 - Then, spray the used food bin, skewers, bowls, etc.
 - Aim the hose downward toward the floor to prevent splashing the ceiling.
7. Remove the used food bin, skewers, bowls, etc. from the housing room and stage in the anteroom or outside the anteroom to be transported to the dirty cage wash area.
 - Verify that no bats are present under the wheels of the food bin or cart prior to removal from the bat housing area and anteroom.
8. Remove the floor grates and place them on the side of the drain.
9. Spray the floor of the colony room with the hose (if applicable).
 - Attach the hose foamer to the hose and spray the floor with disinfectant.
10. Lightly brush the floor of the housing room with a scrub brush, broom, or other approved device to remove excess debris.
11. Spray the drain with the hose and remove fruit (if present).
12. Replace the grates.
 - Check the grates to make sure they are placed properly to prevent a bat from accessing the drain.
13. If disinfectant was used, thoroughly rinse the floor and ensure all of the disinfectant has been rinsed down the drain.

14. Squeegee the water on the floor towards the drain to remove standing water.

Feeding:

1. Feed in the morning, unless instructed otherwise by the Facility Supervisor or Veterinarian.
2. Take fresh food from the labeled food bin located in the NAF 112a fridge.
3. Place the food in the colony room after room cleaning has been completed.
 - Position the food bin away from overhead perching areas in the colony room.
 - Lock the wheels on the feeding cart (if present).
 - Remove the lids from the feeding containers (if present).
4. Hang up skewers of food by placing the skewer on the hanging hooks throughout the room.
5. Scoop food mixture from the food bin into the clean bowls, then place the bowls on the hanging platforms, prima-hedrons, or other approved device(s).

Water:

1. Provide water from the approved water jugs only.
 - Water sourced from sinks/hoses, hydropac water, and/or NAF bottle filler is not acceptable due to potential for halogens which can result in fluoride toxicity in bats.
2. Refill water containers from one or more of the following:
 - Two (2) or more large shallow water dishes/bowls placed on an elevated platform or cart
 - Four (4) or more water bottles hung around the colony room
3. If all water is consumed in the room from the previous day, add additional water to the room by placing an additional water bottle or shallow dish in the room.
 - Send a message to the health-usda slack group to report that all water was consumed.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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