



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

# Working Instructions

<b>WIN Number:</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>Fruit Bat Cage Change</b>	<b>Revision #:</b>	0
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## PROCEDURE

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

### Setup:

- Collect the necessary supplies:
  - Clean cages
    - Stage the exact number & style of cages needed in the hallway outside of the housing room
  - Paper liners
  - Hanging towels
  - Clean water bottles filled with approved water
  - Lined biohazard trash can
  - Mop bucket with approved disinfectant and mop
- Insert new paper liners into the trays of each clean cage staged in the hallway.
- Insert new paper liners inside each clean cage staged in the hallway.
  - Ensure that the bottom of the cage is covered with at least two (2) layers of paper liners.
- Hang at minimum one (1) towel in each cage by clipping the metal grommets located on the towel to the carabiners hanging on the top of each cage.

5. Place a clean, filled water bottle on the outside of each cage in the designated holder.
  - Only provide water from approved water sources to prevent fluoride toxicity in bats. Water from sinks, hoses, hydropacs, and/or NAF bottle filler are not acceptable.



### Cage change:

1. Move a clean cage from the hallway into the housing room.
2. Don approved bite resistant gloves, then open the door of the cage to be changed.
3. Reach into the cage and gently fold the bat's wings against the side of their torso.
  - Prior to moving, ensure both wings are gently restrained against the sides of the torso to prevent potential wing or digit injuries.



4. Gently pull the restrained bat from the cage at a 45-degree angle.
  - a. You may place 1-2 fingers above the feet of a restrained bat to assist with the restraint. This will allow the bat to grasp your fingers instead of nearby objects (e.g., cage, enrichment devices, etc.)
5. Remove each bat one at a time and place them into the new cage.
  - a. Allow each bat to grasp the cage wall or ceiling prior to releasing.
  - b. Close the doors of the cages when not actively working with the cage to prevent potential escapes.
  - c. Once all bats are moved to the new cage, count the total number of bats. Look at the cage card and confirm the number of bats matches what is listed on the cage card.
    - Report any discrepancies by sending a message to the health-usda slack group.
  - d. Move the cage card and tags (if present) to the new cage.
6. Observe each animal during cage change and assess for health concerns.
  - a. Report any health concerns that are found by placing a pink health check Post It® and immediately send a message to the “health-usda” slack group with a short description of the health concern.
7. Remove the paper liners and used food bowls from the dirty cage and discard into the biohazard trash can.
8. Remove the hanging towels and other enrichment items from the dirty cage prior to removal from the housing room.
  - a. Inspect each towel and other enrichment items for bats hiding inside.
  - b. Inspect the empty, dirty cage for bats prior to removal from the housing room.
9. Move the dirty cage to the anteroom and inspect the cage from all sides for any bats that are inside or outside of the cage.
10. Spray the cage thoroughly with approved disinfectant, then move the cage to the hallway for transportation to the dirty cage wash area.

## REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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