



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

Working Instructions

WIN Number:	800	Rabbit Cage Change	Revision #:	0
Date Effective:	2/10/25		Supersedes:	0

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PROCEDURE

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

Setup:

1. Collect all the supplies necessary for cage change.
 - a. Supplies include:
 - Clean rabbit cage(s)
 - Toys and/or other approved enrichment devices
 - Food hoppers
 - Water bottles, sipper tubes, and water supply from an approved water source (NAF cage wash bottle filler, NAF hydropac water hose, LKS hydropac water hose).
 - Clean towel for handling (if applicable)
2. Add a clean feeder to the outside of each cage and fill with the approved rabbit diet.
3. Add new water bottle(2) with sipper tube(s) to each cage.
 - Check all sipper tubes by squeezing the bottle or running a gloved finger over the sipper tube opening to ensure it is properly functioning.
 - Replace water bottles that are leaking or not dispensing water properly.

4. Pull the tray out from underneath each cage and place a new liner on the tray of each cage. After placing the liner in the tray, slide the tray back underneath the cage.
5. Place one (1) toy in each cage (at minimum).
6. Move the clean cage rack into the housing room and stage the rack near the cages that are being changed.

Cage Change:

1. Open the cage door and transfer the animal(s) from the dirty cage to the clean cage using proper rabbit handling and lifting techniques as demonstrated by the trainer.
 - a. Approach the animal calmly and place one hand over the shoulder. Place your other hand underneath the hind legs by wrapping your arm around the rabbit to prevent the rabbit from jumping, then scoop the animal into your arms.
 - b. Transport the rabbit by placing its head under your arm/elbow area, covering the rabbit's eyes.
 - Support and control the rabbit under the hind legs during transportation
 - Carefully place the rabbit into the cage ensuring all 4 limbs are in contact with the cage floor. DO NOT let the rabbit jump into the cage.
 - c. DO NOT pick up a rabbit by the ears or scruff the rabbit.
 - d. If an animal displays aggressive behavior, contact the Facility Supervisor for proper handling procedures.



2. Assess each animal for health concerns.
3. Close the cage door, then latch the door shut to prevent escapes.
4. Transfer the cage card from the original cage to the new cage.

5. Repeat these steps until all rabbits on the rack have been moved to a clean cage.
6. Check each dirty cage and confirm there are no remaining animals inside the cage. Then, close the cage door and latch the door shut.
7. Transport the dirty cage to the dirty cage wash area.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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