

Policy: SC-20-103
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Title: Pest Control Procedures

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to prevent and control the entrance of pests and predators and eradicate infestations in facilities housing research and teaching animals. The Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy, the ILAR *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agriculture Research and Teaching require a pest control program as a component of the animal care program.

II. Policy:

All units housing laboratory or teaching animals must have standard operating procedures on pest control. Refer to the Policy and Procedures Manual for pest control guidance <http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/290/290-45.pdf>.

III. Procedure:

Building design, construction and maintenance are the primary components to preventing entrance of potential pests into animal areas.

All units must ensure that windows, doors and exterior walls are sealed to prevent entrance of pest and predators. Interior walls, drains and vents must be checked for cracks and leaks and repaired as needed.

Facilities Management must be contacted when repairs are needed that require their services.

Facilities shall be kept free of clutter, unnecessary storage of equipment, and trash to prevent the harborage of pests. Keep cardboard boxes, feed bags, etc. off of the floor. Refer to the Standard of Care SC-50-101 Housekeeping in Facilities housing Biomedical Research animals and the Standard of Care SC-50-106 Housekeeping in Facilities Housing Agricultural Animals for further clarification.

UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Animal units are required to develop pest control standard operating procedures specific to their pest control needs. A regularly scheduled and documented program of control and monitoring should be implemented (*Guide p.74*).

Facility managers or designee must coordinate pest control procedures with Facilities Management as needed to minimize harmful effects to the integrity of building and equipment construction as well as to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Principal Investigators and research staff must be consulted before ANY pesticides or other substances will be used in animal areas or around caging, food or other items that will contact the animals to prevent any affects or unintended consequences that could affect the research experiments.

When necessary for the prevention or control of potential risks associated with pests and predators, nontoxic substances and live traps can be utilized.

Any traps used should be humane (*Guide, p74*). Live and lethal (e.g., snap) traps maintained by the Animal Care Staff must be checked daily. Glue traps are strongly discouraged. Zoonotic agents have been identified in the wild rodent populations in Davis. Live trapped rodents found by Animal Care Staff MAY be submitted for surveillance to the Comparative Pathology Laboratory (CPL). Animal Care Staff will follow SOP 40-205.

Proper protective equipment MUST be worn when handling wild rodents, at a bare minimum disposable gloves and an outer covering (coat or uniform) and a barrier mask (surgical mask to prevent splash exposure, N95 however, is recommended). CPL must be informed that the animals are wild caught, so they can take proper safety precautions. Transport is best accomplished by placing the entire live trap in a clean rodent cage with filter top. The filter top lid should be taped on the cage. The cage is put in the euthanasia chamber, and euthanasia performed, before handling the wild rodent. This submission or euthanasia must be completed on the day the animal is discovered by the Animal Care Staff in the live trap. Submission of animals to CPL must be coordinated with the Health Monitoring Coordinator in the Attending Veterinarian's office who can be contacted at: TRACS-Vet@ucdavis.edu or 530-400-8827.

Use of commercial or regulated pesticides and aerosolized products requiring special applicators such as a back pack should be done in consultation with Facilities Management and should only be used when other preventive or control methods are unsuccessful. These Pesticides when used indoors must be documented. Principal Investigators must also be aware of and agree on any commercial or regulated pesticides used in animal areas or around caging, food or other items that will contact the animals.

Facility managers or designees must be appropriately trained on pest control procedures and proper implementation of pest control methods.