

TITLE: Sanitation of Caging Supplies

SOP Category: Husbandry

RUAC SOP #: 3.02

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Approval: *Lisa Antonucci*

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SCOPE:

This SOP addresses the sanitation of caging supplies performed by cage wash staff.

OBJECTIVE:

This SOP describes the procedures for handling caging and supplies in preparation for sanitizing, sterilizing, and storage.

INFORMATION:

Most Rutgers University animal facilities use a rack washer and/or a tunnel washer for sanitizing caging (NexGen cages, Techniplast cages, inserts, bottles, cage tops). See individual SOP by building for specific instructions of operation and maintenance of cage washer's

Nelson SOP# 2.07
CHI SOP# 2.11
ICPH SOP # 2.22
SPH SOP #2.11
RT SOP #2.16

MSB SOP# 2.19
Aidekman SOP #2.21
CC SOP #2.20
CINJ SOP #2.13

PROCEDURE:

Sanitation of Caging:

- Bring soiled cages cage components to the dirty side cage wash on a rack or a cart and push into the room.
- Dump the soiled bedding and feed into trash bags under a dumping station or an automatic disposal system (Garb-el, Matrix).
- Once the cage is empty of its' dirty contents, inspect the



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cage for defects. Set aside any cages with cracks or safety hazards. Bring any defects to the attention of the facility supervisor.

- Stack soiled cages onto a cart or onto a rack.
- Handle biohazards per their individual disposal instructions and specific hazard SOP, then process as above.
- Once caging is prepared for sanitization, follow specific vivarium SOP's for the cage wash equipment.
- Once sanitization of caging supplies is complete, store like components together.
- Prepare caging following SOP # 3.03 Preparing of Rodent Caging



Hand Washing of Caging Components:

- Soak soiled cages (after dumping and scraping) in Quatricide PV-15 for 15 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- When dry, prepare caging following SOP # 3.03 Preparation of Rodent Caging.
- When handwashing is necessary, sanitation effectiveness will be verified using the ATP Bioluminescence System at least weekly.

Water Bottles:

- Place water bottles on carts, or in larger containers, and bring them to dirty cage wash.
- Place bottles in a bottle rack.
- Remove sipper tube from bottles and place in a stainless-steel wire basket.
- Turn bottles upside down and empty.



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- Wash bottle rack and accessory baskets in cage washer or bottle washer as appropriate for the facility.

Miscellaneous Items- cage card holders, tunnels, igloos

- Place all miscellaneous items (items too small to wash on their own) in stainless-steel wire baskets to be washed.
- Fill baskets, cover and sanitize in the cage washer appropriate for the facility.
- Remove all sanitized items on the clean side.

