

TITLE: Handling Hazards in Animals

SOP Category: Husbandry

CMR SOP #: 3.07

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Effective Date: 4/19/2021

Approval: *Lisa Antonucci*

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SCOPE:

This document describes the procedures to be followed when **Handling Hazards in Animals**. Rutgers Environmental Health & Safety (REHS) reviews IACUC protocols and identifies hazards such as radioactive material, chemical hazards and biohazards. To assure safe handling of animals and disposal of bedding and carcasses this document outlines notification requirements and points of contact. This SOP applies to all Animal Care Staff (ACS), ACS Supervisors (ACSS), Veterinary Staff (VS), and Research Staff members (RS) at the Rutgers University facilities.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective is to outline the proper procedures for safely conducting husbandry of animals that are administered hazardous agents. To reduce the risk of exposure to research and animal care staff.

PROCEDURES:

- REHS Generates hazard signage at time of IACUC protocol review. They post the signage in one drive sorted by PI. In addition, REHS sends email to PI, with instructions to notify CMR staff prior to hazard usage.
- At least 1 week prior to administration of hazard, PI or research staff notifies Husbandry Supervisor of the duration, location, and number of cages.
- Husbandry Supervisor designates specific housing requirements and provides cage hazard labeling and signage to research staff. Administration of hazards may commence only after requirements are met.
 - IVC cages with gasketed lid and building exhaust do not require relocation and can be housed on positive ventilated rack.
 - Non gasketed cage needs to be housed on static or negative IVC rack.

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- PI or research staff must post the hazard signage on the room door or in room binder for the duration of hazard. A comprehensive sign is posted on the room door when hazard signage is posted in room binder. Hazard signage lists procedures for use of hazards. When hazard is no longer in use hazard signage should be removed or flipped over.
- PI or research staff must affix cage hazard labeling to the cage card once the animals in the cage have been exposed to the hazard. Date of dosing must be included on cage hazard label. Follow hazard signage for proper procedure.
- If cage becomes non hazard during the study as indicated on the signage. Hazard sticker must be defaced with lab dot and dated when non hazardous.
- Biohazard cages should be handled last, following handling of other cages in the room.
- If euthanasia is requested for an animal with a cage hazard label, refer to REHS signage for disposal and handling procedures.
- When returning soiled cages to vivarium, PI or research staff must label cages with appropriate hazard label for proper disposal.