

TITLE: Husbandry of Swine

SOP Category: Husbandry

RUAC SOP #: 3.15

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Effective Date: 11/1/2021

Approval: *Lisa Antonucci*

Revisions: 3/18/25

SCOPE:

This document describes the procedures to be followed when performing husbandry of swine and sheep. 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 ensure that swine care and housing is consistent with regulatory guidelines.



This SOP covers: Receiving Animals, Daily Observation, Housing, Feeding, Sanitizing Runs

PROCEDURES:

Receiving animals:

Pigs are delivered by a USDA approved vendor either in crates or loose in specialized delivery trucks. If pigs are loose, metal transport cage is used to transfer pigs from the truck to their cage. Pigs come ear tagged with USDA number.



Pigs that are used for survival surgery must have at least a 5-day acclimation period.

Daily observation:

- ACS checks animals daily (including weekend and holidays). ACT reports any animal(s) not doing well (not eating, drinking, defecating or urinating, appearing sick) or found dead to the Veterinary Technician (VT), who then checks animal and reports any animal(s) needing further evaluations and or medical attention to the Veterinarian and the Principal Investigator (PI).

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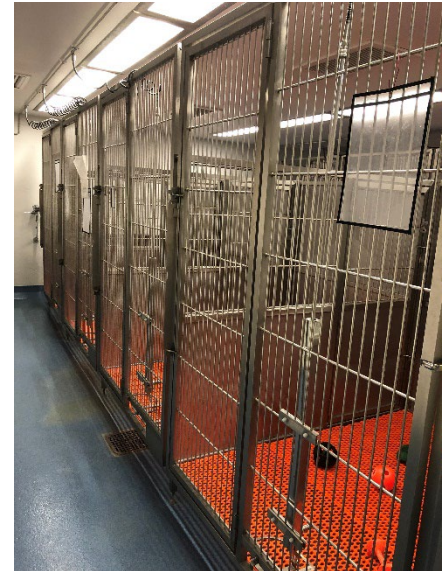
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- ACS checks each room daily (and on weekends and holidays) for temperature humidity and functional lighting. Record this information on the daily animal room sheet.
 - ACS checks the run visually for urine and feces.
 - ACS checks the automatic watering system daily

Housing:

- Swine are housed in Stainless steel runs with raised slotted grid floors that are rubber coated.
- Floor slots are appropriate so there is no hoof entrapment.
- Floors are raised so urine and feces drop down to provide cleanest environment possible.
- Swine are group housed whenever possible because they are social animals.
- Space required for swine is based on the *Guide* (see table below)
- Recommended environmental parameters 70-74 degrees Fahrenheit, 30-70% RH
- Enrichment is added to cage, See enrichment SOP for details



Animals	Weight, ^a kg	Floor Area / Animal, ^b ft ² (m ²)
Swine	<15	8.0 (0.72)
	Up to 25	12.0 (1.08)
	Up to 50	15.0 (1.35)
	Up to 100	24.0 (2.16)
	Up to 200	48.0 (4.32)
	>200	≥60.0 (≥5.4)

Feed:

- Pigs are fed twice daily.
- Swine are fed in a metal bowl that attaches to the door of the run
- If swine are group housed, they are separated during feeding and returned to group housing after they are done eating
- Swine drink from the automatic watering sipper tubes with reverse osmosis hyper chlorinated water

Sanitization of run

Large animal pens are cleaned and sanitized daily.

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When large animal room is filled, and a spare pen is not available for housing animals during sanitization, hold animals in larger groups during the sanitization period and then move to original social group once sanitization is complete

- Animals are moved together and temporarily housed in small section using divider or door to separate them.
- ACS removes feed bowl and enrichment; both are washed in cage washer.
- Remove any bulk debris from cage and under cage
- Spray soiled cage with hose/power washer
- Use scrubber to remove stuck debris
- Thoroughly spray run and under run
- Squeegee area to remove excess water.
- Repeat procedure for multiple pens.
- Complete paperwork to document pen sanitation.

.Preparation of New Pen

- Provide toys to new pen floor.
- Open divider/door between pens and move animal(s) into new clean pen.