VERMIN PROGRAM

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (ACUP) is to describe the procedures used to prevent and control vermin in Cornell animal facilities. This ACUP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This document applies to all Cornell University animal facility managers and supervisors.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. The intent of this ACUP is to describe general facility vermin control practices. A regularly scheduled and documented program should be in place to ensure the prevention and monitoring of vermin in all animal facilities. Vermin is defined as any animal, including birds and insects that enters a facility on its own volition and has the potential to spoil food or harm animals that are intentionally housed in the facility.

4. MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT

4.1. Door sweeps
4.2. Pallets
4.3. Disinfectant
4.4. Screening materials
4.5. Caulk
4.6. Vermin traps

5. PROCEDURE

5.1. Laboratory Animal Facilities

5.1.1. Preventative Measures
5.1.1.1. Consult with a university contracted service or a professional exterminator to accomplish the following:

5.1.1.1.1. Identify potential sources of vermin.
5.1.1.1.2. Propose a preventative plan for that facility (type / location of traps, frequency of monitoring, etc.).

5.1.1.2. Prevent vermin access to feed and bedding storage areas:

5.1.1.2.1. Install door sweeps on all feed room doors.
5.1.1.2.2. Store feed bags on pallets or shelves kept far enough away from walls so as to allow regular cleaning and inspection.

**NOTE:** USDA-covered facilities must store feed bags at least 6 inches away from walls.

5.1.1.3. Restrict vermin access to receiving areas, loading docks, and exterior doors by installing door sweeps to all doors that have direct access to the exterior of the building.

5.1.1.4. Perform routine maintenance on drains to prevent vermin from accessing them.

5.1.1.4.1. Flush drains no less than once a month.

5.1.2. Corrective Measures

5.1.2.1. Consult with a university contracted service or a professional exterminator.

5.1.2.2. Use of chemicals must be approved by a Center for Animal Resource and Education (CARE) at Cornell University veterinarian, the facility manager, and applicable PI’s.

5.1.2.3. Document all corrective measures in a vermin control log.

5.2. Agricultural Facilities

5.2.1. Preventative Measures

5.2.1.1. Arrange for professional evaluation of the facility to accomplish the following:

5.2.1.1.1. Identify potential sources of vermin entry.
5.2.1.1.2. Propose a preventative plan for that facility (type / location of traps, frequency of monitoring, etc.).

5.2.1.2. Prevent entry of vermin to enclosed facilities:

5.2.1.2.1. Cover openings and ceilings with screens.
5.2.1.2.2. Seal cracks in walls.
5.2.1.2.3. Eliminate vermin breeding, roosting, and refuge sites.
5.2.1.3. Control vermin that have accessed the buildings:

5.2.1.3.1. Limit access of vermin to feed supplies and water sources.

5.2.2. Monitoring

Inspect all traps at a minimum of once a day.
5.2.2.1.1. Document all live trap monitoring and subsequent actions in a vermin control log.

5.2.2.2. Place rodent traps in areas of concern (e.g., feed / bedding storage, under sinks, near outdoor entrance) in all enclosed facilities.

5.2.2.2.1. Do not use sticky traps for rodents.
5.2.2.2.2. Remove dead rodents from traps by using an inverted bag or gloves. Bag and dispose of carcass.

5.2.3. Corrective Measures

5.2.3.1. Contact a licensed pesticide applicator or a commercial service.
5.2.3.2. Get approval for proposed treatments from a CARE veterinarian and applicable PI's.
5.2.3.3. Document regular or seasonal treatments per facility SOPs.
5.2.3.4. Document all corrective measures in a vermin control log.

6. PERSONNEL SAFETY

6.1. Medical Emergencies: CALL 911.

6.2. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Refer to the CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage for more information.

7. ANIMAL RELATED CONTINGENCIES

7.1. Access to details regarding vermin control compounds must be readily available in case of accidental animal exposure or ingestion.

7.2. Post contact information for emergency assistance in a conspicuous location within the animal facility.

7.3. Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays:

7.3.1. Biomedical settings: CARE (pager 1-800-349-2456)
7.3.2. Farm animal settings: Ambulatory and Production Medicine Service at (607) 253-3140.

7.4. Non-emergency veterinary questions and requests for care, email CARE veterinary staff at care@cornell.edu.
8. REFERENCES

8.1. CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage:
http://ras.research.cornell.edu/care/OHS.html

8.2. Upstate Poison Control Center – SUNY Upstate Medical University:
http://www.upstate.edu/poison

http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12910&page=R1

8.4. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, 3rd Ed. Federation of Animal Science Societies, Savoy, IL., January 2010:
https://www.adsa.org/Portals/0/SiteContent/docs/AgGuide3rd/Ag_Guide_3rd_ed.pdf

9. APPENDIX

9.1. None

10. HISTORY

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