

COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

for

Husbandry of Mice Housed in Static Microisolators in the SPF Barrier Facility

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this SOP is to outline the guidelines for proper care of mice housed in static microisolators. Microisolators are known to develop higher ammonia levels and mold due to reduced air circulation. The changing frequencies recommended in this SOP should eliminate these risks, and ensure a healthy environment for the mice.

2.0 SCOPE:

This SOP applies to all CMLAF employees working in SPF Facility.

3.0 PROCEDURE:

- 3.1 Cages, filter tops, wire lids, food, water, and bedding must be sterilized (autoclaved or irradiated)
- 3.2 Cage changing must be conducted in a sterile manner as per SOP "Cage Manipulations Procedures (SPF) #1.E.2. in a HEPA workstation.
- 3.3 Static Microisolator cages must be changed every 3-4 days (twice a week) for 2+ mice/cage, or once a week for 1 mouse/cage.
 - A. The complete cage (wire lids, filter tops, feed, bedding and water bottle) will be changed once a week.
 - B. During the second change per week (if required) feed and water will be topped up.
 - C. Filter paper in the micro isolator lids should be replaced as needed.
 - D. For irradiated diets, only the minimum amount required to feed mice ad lib will be placed in the wire hopper.
- 3.4 If mold is observed on the food, the entire cage set up (filter top, wire lid, cage) must be changed. Food and water must be discarded and fresh food and water provided. Note the code date on the bag and report incident to your supervisor. The supervisor will notify the PI and manufacturer.
- 3.5 Shelving racks will be wiped down weekly to remove surface dust.
- 3.6 Shelving racks will be removed for sanitation in the rack washer quarterly (4X/year) or when re-assigned to a new room/PI.
- 3.7 Food and bedding orders will be directed to supervisors either in writing or email.