

COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
For
REPORTING CHINCHILLA HEALTH PROBLEMS AT CARY HALL

- 1.0 Purpose:
The procedures set forth in this SOP outline the necessary steps to follow in recognizing and reporting sick chinchillas at Cary Hall.
- 2.0 Scope:
The CMLAF and the researchers are both responsible for ensuring that the chinchillas receive medical care when required.
- 3.0 Procedure:
 - 3.1 Signs of Disease/Illness in Chinchillas:
 - A. Weight loss, inappetence, abnormal stools (small, fewer number, diarrhea, blood, mucous), abnormal eyes (redness, discharge, opacity, enlargement), lameness, skin abnormalities (bleeding, cuts, hair-loss, scratching), change in general appearance (abdominal distension, hunched), coughing/sneezing, nasal discharge, abnormal behaviour (depression, eyes partially closed, hyperactivity, aggression, inactivity).
 - B. Any outcome from the surgery (research project) that is unexpected, unusual, or more severe than normal must also be reported. For example; >10% weight loss from pre-operative weight, infected incision (redness, swelling, discharges), > 45° head tilt, rolling, inability to stand, head tilt lasting longer than 10 days post-op.
 - 3.2 Reporting abnormalities:
 - A. Report problem either to the CMLAF caretaker, who is at Cary Hall each day, or to a Veterinary Technician (VT) by phoning 829-2919.
 - B. All abnormalities MUST be reported on the day first observed.
 - C. CMLAF staff will complete an “Animal Report” form, describing the problem, and place a YELLOW tag on the cage.
 - D. The Animal Report form is then submitted to the veterinary technicians.
 - E. The veterinary technician will further examine the animal that day.
 - F. The VT will contact the principal investigator to inform, obtain further information, and obtain permission to treat if required.
 - 3.3 Medical Treatments:
 - A. The CMLAF veterinarian will examine the animal and prescribe appropriate therapy.
 - B. Once the chinchilla is on treatment it will have a RED tag placed on the cage.
 - C. The veterinary technician will keep the principal investigator informed of the animal’s progress, and course of therapy.
 - D. All treatments will be recorded on the animal’s medical record kept at

- Cary Hall, and a copy kept in the treatment book at CMLAF.
- E. All treatments will be performed by the CMLAF VTs, unless specific arrangements are made with the PI/researcher to participate in the administration of medications.
 - F. All treatments/medications must be entered on the animal's medical file with the date, time, and signature.
 - G. Changes in the course of therapy will be outlined by the veterinarian on the animal's medical record.