



Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

WATERING

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REVIEWER	Reviewed Annually by Dr Beng Hooi Chua	Dr Tara Pike	Dr Tara Pike		

Aim/Purpose: To describe the procedure used for supplying water to animals.

ALL ANIMALS MUST BE HANDLED HUMANELY i.e. carefully and kindly.

1. Water for animal use is supplied to animal areas from a central supply with equipment to automatically adjust the pH to the desired level. **No other water is to be used for watering animals.**
2. Water required to be medicated has the medicine **added to the bottle containing water from the central water supply ONLY.**
3. **Floods** are the result of water bottles leaking into cages. Recently watered boxes should be checked for floods at an appropriate time (at least 1 hour and at most the following morning) after replacing water bottles. The cage must be cleaned and changed for a clean cage and the water bottle replaced immediately if flooding has occurred.
4. On daily animal checks the water level should be noted. For all animals the water level must be at least halfway between the top of the cage and the base of the bottle. If it not then the bottle must be topped up.

PROCEDURE TO FILL BOTTLES

1. Check bottles starting from the top left hand cage on the rack moving across the shelf then start at the left hand cage on the next row. Bottles needing to be replaced are removed and replaced/refilled during this process.



2. The cap is removed from the old bottle and checked for mould/algae growth, if clear press onto a new bottle. Make sure the lid fits tightly onto the bottle and the **o-ring is in place**. After ensuring the bottle does not leak and the nipple is not blocked return to the cage. **Make sure the nipple passes through the hole** in the cage lid and the animal can reach the nipple.
3. If any mould/algae growth is found in a bottle or a cap, do not use the bottle. It should be thoroughly cleaned with a bottle washer.
4. Complete replacing bottles working from left to right, top to bottom until the rack of animals is finished. Place all on a trolley to save time and moving back and forth to the tap.
5. **Check that no bottles have flooded or have been missed before moving to the next rack.**
6. Sign off on room sheet and/or diary
7. Trolley of empty/used bottles is loaded onto an empty waste rack and taken to waste store to be returned for cleaning. This is done fortnightly when the cage is changed on cleaning day.