



Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

RODENT FORTNIGHTLY CLEANING

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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 cleaning mouse cages.

All employees have a duty of care (see Occupational Health and Safety) to ensure their own health and safety, and that of their fellow workers at all times.

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

1. Cleaning frequency should be fortnightly. If females with litters are present these may be cleaned fortnightly so as not to disturb the dam and risk cannibalism of the litter.
2. Bedding is autoclaved into the clean store as needed.
3. Make sure sufficient polythene bags have been requested.
4. Use a bedding bin, and a trolley with enough clean cages. Prepare the appropriate amount of cages with clean bedding, nesting material (small handful), and one cardboard roll in each cage for the change.
5. Go to the first rack (the first rack is the rack closest to the door on the left side of the room as you enter the room) and working from left to right, top to bottom, remove the cages one at a time. Take off the cage top and carefully remove the animals from the cage into the clean box. Top up the feed into the feed hoppers as required. Make sure that the lid fits properly and will not allow mice to escape, then place cage back onto the rack in its original position. Supply the cage with a new clean water bottle. Ensure the water bottle is in the correct position.



Note: Replacement of a small amount of the dirty bedding allows continuation of animal's scent cues and has been shown to reduce aggression in male animals.

A small amount of the discarded bedding is put into a spare cage for the sentinel animals.

6. Sweep the trolley top and clean any waste material from the scraper. Spray both with 70% alcohol. Stack all boxes together and push out the door, ensuring the exits are not blocked.
7. Move to next rack (second rack on left) and then continue along the left wall racks and then back towards the door on the right wall. Dirty cages into the cage wash area out the back door.
8. Whilst cleaning out, take special note of the animals for signs of ill health, both in stock and breeding stock. Count the number of animals and ensure the cage card reflects the correct number of mice in the box. Any shortages should be noted on the outside of the cage card and researchers notified. If there are missing animals, check the dirty box for a body.
9. Record completion of cleaning procedures on the room chart on the entry door..