



Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

FEEDING AND BEDDING

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

Aim/Purpose: To describe the acquisition and use of feed and bedding

1. All feed and bedding will be purchased from an approved vendor unless approved protocol or veterinary issues dictate otherwise.
2. On receiving food and bedding at the facility the consignment should be checked and any torn bags should be rejected or those within 2 months of the expiration date.
3. The facility has dedicated rooms for storage of feed and bedding. Doors to these rooms should not be propped open. Stock should be rotated so it is used on a “first in- first out” basis.
4. Food should be autoclaved into the unit on an as needed basis so large amounts of food are not stored within animal rooms.
5. In animal rooms, feed will be stored only in a designated feed barrel. A label should be present under the lid identifying the food in the barrel. This should have on it the:
 - a. Type of food
 - b. Species
6. Animals should be fed a commercial diet appropriate to their species and stage of development e.g. maintenance/ growth or lactation. Rats and mice are fed ad lib but not more than can be consumed in a week.
 - a. Mice will consume 4-5 grams per day on average
 - b. Rats will consume 12-25g per day



7. Food hoppers should be cleaned regularly- normally at the same time as cage cleaning occurs to prevent build-up of old food.
8. Provision of wet mash in a small container on floor (to prevent smelly bedding) is useful for sick animals, those recovering from surgery or newly weaned animals.
9. N.B Food can also be used as a form of enrichment. Forage mixes are commercially available and these can be scattered on the floor of the cage amongst the bedding twice weekly. Many of these can be supplied in a sterile form e.g. irradiated. These will need to be approved by facility staff prior to use.
10. If animals are on a special diet e.g. nutrient deficient or compound added this should be clearly marked on their cage card.
11. An approved contact bedding should be used for rats and mice. As for food, bedding should be autoclaved into the facility on an as needed basis. Bedding is stored in a designated barrel within the clean store room.