

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 006.29

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TITLE: **Animal Health and Environmental Surveillance**
SCOPE: All Animal Program Personnel
RESPONSIBILITY: Facility Manager, All Animal Program Personnel
PURPOSE: To Daily Review Animal Health, and Identify and Report a Change in Overall Animal Health or Environmental Conditions.

5. Health and environmental surveillance of animals at satellite facilities and at IACUC-approved laboratories outside of animal facilities where animals are housed > 12 hours must be performed

- f. Confirm that you have informed the lab in the “Acknowledgement” column of the **Animal Health and Environmental Concern Form**.
 - g. Ensure the primary enclosure remains flagged until the end point concern is resolved.
 - h. If assistance with a choice of treatment is needed, contact the veterinarian.
 - i. Treatments may be initiated in response to an approaching end point by the veterinarian or as described in the protocol, after the research technician has been notified, and are noted in the **Progress Notes** form.
 - j. If no resolution is achieved within 24 hours, email the lab again, copy the veterinarian, and request that the veterinarian assist with resolution. Resolution should be recorded in the **Progress Notes**.
14. When informing the lab of an animal that is approaching, or at a clinical end point, or that has developed a health concern that requires treatment, consider using the following format for your email.
 - a. Address your email to the lab contact and PI, and in the “subject” line indicate “Animal health or end point concern, IACUC protocol XX, room XX, rack XX”
 - b. For a **health concern** requiring treatment, consider stating: “Animals housed on your behalf in room XX, rack XX, under IACUC protocol XX, require treatment, as follows. The primary enclosure has been labeled with a **red** flag and treatment label. Please acknowledge receipt of this notification and indicate approval of the proposed treatment.”
 - c. For animals approaching or at an **end point**, consider stating: “Animals housed on your behalf in room XX, rack XX, under IACUC protocol XX, are approaching end point and require your attention. The primary enclosure has been labeled with a **neon orange** flag and endpoint criteria label. Animals approaching clinical end point must be monitored closely and scheduled for euthanasia. Please acknowledge receipt of this notification and indicate that you will resolve this end point concern promptly.”
15. Health concerns observed by the PI or research staff at a satellite facility or laboratory outside of an animal facility where animals are housed >12 hours should be promptly communicated to the veterinary staff.
16. If the animal has a unique identification # it should be recorded on the red cage card used to flag the animal’s primary enclosure, and recorded in the **Progress Notes** whenever entries are made regarding this animal. In addition, the animal room technician assigns a number, sequentially, starting with one (1). Each room will have its own sequence of numbers. A new sequence of numbers will begin each year on January 1 and run to December 31.
17. Procedures for the handling/reporting of animals found dead are described in **SOP #017** entitled, **Handling of Animals Found Moribund or Dead**.
18. If an environmental concern is observed:
 - a. Record the concern in the **Health and Environmental Concerns** column on the **Room Status Sheet** and initial.
 - b. Record the room number and the concern on the Facility Managers **Animal Health and Environmental Concern Form** and initial
 - c. At a satellite facility or laboratory outside of an animal facility where animals are housed >12 hours, environmental concerns should be promptly communicated to local physical plant personnel by the research staff.

NOTE: If at any time there is a medical emergency (e.g., moribund, dystocia, bleeding,

found to be inadequate, contacts the responsible individual for resolution. Inadequate animal medical record keeping that cannot be satisfactorily resolved is reportable to the IACUC and can result in the suspension of animal use privileges in accordance with *IACUC Principles and Procedure X*.

- h. **Neon Yellow** – Euthanize
- i. **Orange** – Containment (i.e., animal biosafety)
- j. **White** – Caretaker s