

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

- b. Frogs should be moved/picked up using a net. Each Xenoplus system has a net dedicated for use only with that system.
- c. Clean cages are filled to approximately 4" using conditioned water.
- d. Static caging is changed 2 times a week. Usually the days after frogs are fed. Cages are washed and rinsed with hot water thoroughly before filling with treated water. Chemicals and soap products can damage the mucus layer on the skin and cause irritation.
- e. Techniplast Xenoplus™ System tanks are changed as needed. It is recommended to use only reverse osmosis water for cleaning the Techniplast Xenoplus™ tanks.

3. Feeding

- a. Frogs are **fed two (2) times a week**.
- b. Approximately 3-4 pieces of Nasco™ frog brittle is placed in the tank water.
- c. Any food uneaten after 20 minutes needs to be removed from the tank
- d. Uneaten food can be removed by siphoning or scooped out using a net.
- e. Newly received frogs are allowed two days to adapt before attempting to feed.
- f. Feeding is recorded on the **Room Status Sheet**.

4. Environmental Enrichment

- a. Environmental enrichment is recommended for all animals.
- b. Items affording places to hide provides retreats for frogs and decreases stress.
- c. Enrichment items must be sanitizable, free from rough surfaces or sharp edges that could injure the delicate skin of frogs.
- d. Any environmental changes made must be communicated to and approved by the researcher prior to implementation.

5. Water analysis

- a. **Daily**- water temperature, pH, and conductivity are read from the Xenoplus display and recorded on the **Room Status Sheet**.
 - 1. **Water temperature** should be maintained between **64-68 °F**.
 - 2. **pH** should be maintained between **6.5-8.5**.
 - 3. **Conductivity** should be maintained between 1100 - 2000uS.
- b. **Weekly**- Water parameters are checked manually to ensure the following are within acceptable limits and results recorded on the **Xenoplus™ Weekly Manual Water Parameters** log:
 - 1. **Water temperature** – 64-68°F
 - 2. **pH** – 6.5-8.5
 - 3. **Conductivity** – 1100-2000uS
 - 4. **Nitrite (NO₂)** – < 0.2mg/L
 - 5. **Ammonia(NH₄)** – < 0.2mg/L
 - 6. **Chlorine (Cl)** – 0mg/L
 - 7. **Water hardness (CaCO₃)- 80-200ppm**
- c. Manufacturer's product inserts and directions for all water quality tests and equipment are kept in the **Room Log Book**.

Approved:

Date: