1. PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the daily routine for the care of rabbits.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Animal care staff

3. MATERIALS

3.1. Rabbit diet (within 6 months of the milling date)
3.2. Clean water bottles
3.3. Clean rabbit cages
3.4. Paper pan liners
3.5. Bedding
3.6. Clean litter boxes
3.7. Clean environmental enrichment devices
3.8. Disinfectant solution

4. PROCEDURES

4.1. Daily:
   4.1.1. Observe animals and report any abnormality to the veterinary care staff.
   4.1.2. Log temperature (min/max) and humidity (min/max). Report any abnormality of environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, light, noise) to the supervisor.
   4.1.3. Reset temperature/humidity meter.
   4.1.4. Feed rabbits ad lib.
   4.1.5. Check automatic watering devices.
   4.1.6. Empty water bottles, rinse and fill with fresh water.
   4.1.7. Three times a week, remove wet bedding and empty litter pans. Replenish with fresh bedding.
   4.1.8. Change cage pan liners three times per week, at a minimum.
   4.1.9. Sweep the floor and empty the garbage container.
   4.1.10. Replenish supplies in the room as needed.

4.2. Weekly:
   4.2.1. Remove bedding and disinfect pens and surrounding walls, change food hoppers/bowls and litter pans once every two weeks. Environmental enrichment devices are cleaned and replaced at the time the pens are cleaned.
   4.2.2. Change the cage banks every two weeks, at a minimum. Only transfer one animal at a time to avoid unintentional mix-up of the animals. Change food hoppers/bowls, water bottles and environmental enrichment devices.
   4.2.3. Mop floors with disinfectant solution.
   4.2.4. Flush automatic watering system once per week.
   4.2.5. Check light timers.
   4.2.6. Flush the floor drains.
4.3. Monthly:
   4.3.1. Change the automatic water system’s Pressure Reducing Station filter.
   4.3.2. Wipe down all surfaces such as sinks, doors, door jams and doorknobs, windows, cart tops, shelves, etc. with the disinfectant solution.
   4.3.3. Clean room exhaust grills.

4.4. Bi-annually:
   4.4.1. Wash all walls with disinfectant solution.

5. SPECIAL PROCEDURES

5.1. Sick or injured animals:
   5.1.1. Place a Veterinary Care card on the cage or pen of the sick or injured animal.
   5.1.2. Complete an Illness/Injury Report and submit it to the veterinary care staff.

5.2. Preparation disinfecting solution:
   5.2.1. Wear personal protective equipment when preparing and using disinfectant solution.
   5.2.2. Dilute according to manufacturer’s recommendation.
   5.2.3. Clean surfaces prior to disinfection to remove any organic material.
   5.2.4. Apply disinfectant and allow for adequate contact time.