1. PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the procedures for routine care and husbandry of common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*).

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Animal care staff.

3. MATERIALS

3.1. Cage cards
3.2. Personal protective equipment:
  3.2.1. Shoe covers
  3.2.2. Laboratory gown
  3.2.3. Hair bonnet
  3.2.4. Fit-tested N95 Respirator
  3.2.5. 2 pairs of examination-grade gloves
  3.2.6. Disposable face shield
  3.2.7. Puncture resistant gloves (optional)
3.3. Diet:
  3.3.1. Marmoset diet
  3.3.2. Fresh fruits, nuts, seeds, dried fruits, etc.
3.4. Clean water bottles
3.5. Clean environmental enrichment devices
3.6. Hardwood shavings
3.7. Disinfectant solution

4. PROCEDURES

4.1. Observation of animals and environment.
  4.1.1. Observe all animals daily for illness, injury, general condition, and abnormal behavior. Report any health or behavioral abnormalities to veterinary care staff.
  4.1.2. Observe environmental conditions at room and caging level (temperature, humidity, light, noise, hazard). Report any abnormal environmental conditions to the supervisor.
  4.1.3. Animals found dead are to be reported to veterinary care staff. Carcasses should be removed from the enclosure promptly, identified, and placed in the refrigerator.
  4.1.4. Maintain a daily log of observations, environmental parameters, husbandry and maintenance procedures.
4.2. Emergency and holiday care.
  4.2.1. Provide routine care and husbandry for marmosets on weekends and holidays.
4.3. Animal identification methods:
  4.3.1. Identify all cages with a cage card. Include, at a minimum, the following information:
    4.3.1.1. Investigator
4.3.1.2. Protocol number
4.3.1.3. Species
4.3.1.4. Sex
4.3.2. Individual animals may be identified using various methods such as tattoos, micro-chips, tags, and collars.

4.4. Food and water.
4.4.1. Feed animals twice daily as per Marmoset Feeding SOP.
4.4.2. Verify water levels twice daily; refill bottles as needed. Change water bottles twice per week.

4.5. Social and environmental enrichment.
4.5.1. All animals should be group-housed unless approved in the Animal Use Protocol.
4.5.2. Provide environmental enrichment devices for all marmosets, refer to the Environmental Enrichment Program for NHPs SOP.

4.6. Quarantine procedures.
4.6.1. Refer to Non-Human Primate Quarantine SOP.

4.7. Environmental control.
4.7.1. Maintain room temperatures at approximately 25°C, +/- 2°C.
4.7.2. Maintain relative humidity between 30% and 70%.

4.8. Lighting.
4.8.1. Provide a regular diurnal lighting cycle, set the lighting to turn on at 7:00am and turn off at 7:00pm.
4.8.2. Check the timer accuracy routinely.

4.9. Cleaning and sanitation of caging.
4.9.1. Enclosures are changed every 4 weeks.
4.9.2. Refer to the Marmoset Cage Changing SOP.

4.10. Sanitation of marmoset holding room.
4.10.1. Clean according to Marmoset Room Sanitation SOP

4.11. Transportation:
4.11.1. Transport animals as per Transportation of NHPs Between Facilities SOP.

4.12.1. Deposit non-regulated or non-infectious biological waste and soiled materials in dumpsters.
4.12.2. Regulated or infectious biological waste is processed by McGill University's Waste Management program.

5. SAFETY

5.1. Always wear appropriate PPE.
5.2. Observe Animal-Related Injury SOP.
5.3. Preparation of disinfecting solution.
5.3.1. Wear personal protective equipment as directed by the manufacturer when preparing and using disinfectant solution.
5.3.2. Use metering tool to dilute disinfectant according to manufacturer’s recommendation.
5.3.3. Clean surfaces prior to disinfection to remove any organic material.
5.3.4. Apply disinfectant and allow for adequate contact time.