
1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating procedure (SOP) is to harmonize practices to facilitate movement of animals between McGill University facilities to accommodate the needs of collaborative research while protecting resident colonies from infectious contamination.

The critical components covered by this harmonization are:

- Bioexclusion practices
- Quarantine procedures
- Health Monitoring

Health monitoring programs and quarantine procedures will be addressed in separate SOP's.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Veterinarian, facility manager, animal care staff, veterinary care staff.

3. PROCEDURES

3.1. Bioexclusion is based on husbandry practices and animals are classified according to the following scale:

Level 1

- Conventional housing
- Open cages without filter tops
- Feed, water, and bedding not sterilized

Level 2

- Microisolation/isolation
- Use of change stations optional
- Feed, water, and bedding not sterilized

Level 3

- Microisolation/isolation
- Use of change stations or Biological Safety Cabinets (BSC)
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Sterile feed, water, cages, and bedding

Level 4

Same as Level 3 plus:

- Animals coming only from approved vendors
- Very limited access
- Designated staff

3.2. Excluded pathogens are determined by the facility veterinarian who establishes a list of pathogens monitored and excluded for each Bioexclusion level.