1. **PURPOSE**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the program for monitoring subclinical pathogens in rabbit colonies.

2. **RESPONSIBILITY**

Animal care staff, veterinary care staff, facility supervisors, facility manager.

3. **PROCEDURES**

3.1. Monitor rabbit populations that are housed for more than 8 weeks.

3.2. Selection of rabbits for sample collection:
   - 3.2.1. Randomly select two rabbits from the population being monitored
   - 3.2.2. Ensure that the rabbits are at least 8 weeks old.
   - 3.2.3. Ensure that the rabbits have been housed with the same population for more than 8 weeks.
   - 3.2.4. In addition, sample sick rabbits, euthanized rabbits or those found dead as instructed by a veterinarian.

3.3. Every 12 months, submit:
   - 3.3.1. Serology sample:
     - 3.3.1.1. Collect 1.5mL of blood, centrifuge and freeze serum.
     - 3.3.1.2. Serology profile should include at least the following tests:
       - 3.3.1.2.1. CAR Bacillus
       - 3.3.1.2.2. Encephalitozoon cuniculi
       - 3.3.1.2.3. Treponema
   - 3.3.2. Pooled fecal sample for parasitology testing:
     - 3.3.2.3. Collect at least 5 fecal pellets.

3.4. Sick animal or animals found dead:
   - 3.4.1. Consult veterinarian for additional instructions.
   - 3.4.2. Collect blood if possible for serology testing.
   - 3.4.3. Submit tissues and organs for pathology.

3.5. Health status reports:
   - 3.5.1. The facility veterinarian reviews all sentinel reports.
   - 3.5.2. If there are any health status problems, the veterinarian will contact the facility supervisor/manager and investigators concerned.

### SOP REVISION HISTORY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NEW VERSION</th>
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<td>2017.01.27</td>
<td>4.3.1.2.1. CAR Bacillus</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023.03.17</td>
<td>4.1. Monitor rabbit populations that are housed for more than 8 weeks.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4.2.3. Ensure that the rabbits have been housed with the same population for more than 8 weeks.</td>
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