1. PURPOSE

1.1- To describe the schedule, methods and procedures of husbandry of calves at the large animal research unit (LARU).

1.2- To provide optimum daily care to all animals.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

2.1- Technical staff.

3. MATERIALS

- Brooms
- Plastic shovels
- Pitch fork
- Plastic carts
- Wheelbarrow
- Feed carts
- Grain bin
- Thermometer
- Alcohol
- Quadricide PV

4. PROCEDURES

4.1- Daily: Preliminary Observations and Treatments:

4.1.1- Prior to entering the facility, change into the required uniform in the locker room. Boots specifically for the facility should be worn.

4.1.2- Upon entering the facility, confirm the operating room (OR) schedule for surgeries to be performed, and then check any notices in the hall (or on the whiteboard) for any special instructions before following the instructions below.

4.1.3- Upon entering the animal room, perform preliminary check (quick visual observation) of all animals for any obvious signs of immobility or ill health. If any animals show signs of diarrhea, loss of appetite, depression, inertness, inactivity, etc. proceed with a more in-depth check (consisting of body temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, mucous membrane color, capillary refill time, skin tent, alertness, eye brightness, signs of lethargy, and body check for signs of pain in specific region).

4.1.4- Report any abnormalities to the principal investigator (PI) or his delegate and record your findings in the designated form (i.e. FRM-Animal Health Record).

4.1.5- If all is well with preliminary check, record it in the designated form (FRM - Daily feeding monitoring cleaning at LARU) and proceed with scheduled treatments of animals (if any).

4.1.6- Treatments are according to protocol for any specific instructions.

4.1.7- Record all signs related to the LOPU procedure (swelling, bleeding, lameness) and any other visual symptoms in the Health Record Form. Record in as much detail as is possible. Investigators are informed daily of the progress of their patients. Any problems are immediately brought to the PI’s attention. The investigator is constantly informed of any changes in the condition of the animal(s) under observation.

4.2- Daily: Cleaning of the Calf Room

4.2.1- Calves are housed in groups. They can be housed individually in case of signs of disease (e.g. diarrhea).
4.2.2- Using broom and shovel specifically for each animal room, remove all manure and wet areas in the pen, especially under water bowls.
4.2.3- Add pine shaving (enough to cover depth of pen, approx. 1/4" thick) to pen to keep animals clean.
4.2.4- A full removal of the bedding and re-bedding must be conducted periodically. The frequency of this “full cleaning” may vary from once weekly to once monthly depending on the number of animals, season of the year and degree of dirtiness.
4.2.5- Close door securely upon exit of pen.
4.2.6- Following the cleaning of the pen, feed animals as per LARU - SOP # 3

4.3- Cleaning and disinfection of pens after animal removal:
4.3.1- Wash animal pens with high pressure hose.
4.3.2- Empty all feed in mangers.
4.3.3- Using a quaternary ammonium compound, [Quaticide® solution (16ml in 1000ml water)], wash the entire room, vents, walls, and flooring, with the portable power hose system. Soak all cages for approximately one hour: scrubbing side walls and fence panels of each cage if necessary, then rinse with fresh water.
4.3.4- Clean any fixtures in room.
4.3.5- Feed mangers to be cleaned with detergent cleaning and high pressure hose.
4.3.6- Allow room to dry (approx. 2 hr).
4.3.7- Place fresh pine shaving in group pen (amounts indicated above).
4.3.8- Fill mangers with feed according to above mentioned requirements.
4.3.9- New animals are put in pen with information card.

5. RELATED SOPs