1. PURPOSE

1.1 - To describe the schedule, methods and procedures of husbandry of swine 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

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, inactivity, etc., proceed with a more in-depth check (consisting of 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). Report any abnormalities to the principal investigator (PI).

4.1.4 - If all is well with preliminary check, begin treatments of animals post-surgery.

4.1.5 - Treatments are according to protocol for any specific instructions, otherwise, the standard procedure is the measure of rectal temperature and apply topical bactericidal agent (spray iodine on the surgical site).

4.1.6 - Record all signs related to the surgery (edema, bleeding, hernia, etc...), and any other visual symptoms. 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 Pig Room

4.2.1 - Pigs are housed individually or by litter (piglets), and can be paired only according to protocol and if adequately marked for identification. Using broom and shovel specifically for each animal room, remove all shaving in the pen, especially under mangers and water sippers.

4.2.2 - Place approximately 1/8 bag of pine shaving (enough to cover 3/4 of depth of cage, approx. 1/2" thick) in clean cage, unless otherwise required for specific procedures.

4.2.3 - Close door securely upon exit of cage.

4.2.4 - Following all cages in room being cleaned, fill mangers with the appropriate amount of feed:

a. Adult pigs are fed 1 full scoop (1.5 kg), 2 times per day, of Hog Grower diet.

b. Pregnant sows (after d-60 of pregnancy) are fed the same amount (1.5 kg/twice daily) of Gestation diet.

c. Piglets are fed starter feed according to age.

4.3 - Cleaning and disinfection of pens after pig removal:
4.3.1- Wash all animal pens with high pressure hose.
4.3.2- Empty all feed in mangers.
4.3.3- Using a quaternary ammonium compound, [Quatricide® 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 panels of each cage if necessary, then rinse with fresh water. Proceed to next row following same procedure.
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 each cage (amounts indicated above).
4.3.8- Fill mangers with feed according to above mentioned requirements.
4.3.9- Each animal is put in cage with cage card.

5. RELATED SOPs