



University Animal Care Committee Standard Operating Procedure		
Document No:	Subject: Rodent Environmental Health Monitoring	
Date Issued: November 30, 2014	Revision: 5	Page No: 1

Location: Queen's University

Responsibility: Principal Investigators, Research Staff, Veterinary Staff

Purpose: The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to establish the proper guidelines for monitoring health status of rodent populations utilizing exhaust air dust. In addition to sampling automatic watering lines.

1. Introduction and Definitions: To define the microbial status of rodent colonies, surveillance is conducted for sub-clinical, clinical diseases and opportunistic agents that could jeopardize the validity and reproducibility of research data, complicating its interpretation.

2. Materials:

- Pink Sticky Swabs (Charles River)
- Sterile 50ml Conical tubes
- BD Culture swabs
- 5ml snap top vials
- Oral swabs (Charles River)

3. Procedures:

Exhaust Air Duct Sampling

At the defined intervals established below, current rodent inventories are sampled by room using exhaust air dust (EAD) collection method and PCR testing.

The exhaust hose is removed from the exhaust plenum of the rack and the inside of the hose swabbed with the Charles River "Pink Sticky Swab". A maximum of 6 exhaust hoses are swabbed with a single swab.

The "Pink Sticky swab" is then placed in a sterile 50ml conical tube and submitted to Charles River for further analysis.

PCR Fecal Sample Collection

For Helicobacter testing, fresh feces are collected into a sterile container using aseptic technique. A ~~public display~~ may contain up to 10

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