



SOP #: 502.01

Title: SOP - Sentinel - Soiled Bedding Procedures

Approvals:

Attending Veterinarian

Date:

10/11/12

Assistant Director LAR

Date:

10/11/12

1. Purpose

1.1 To ensure uniform exposure procedures in order to execute the Rodent Health Surveillance Program associated with the Laboratory Animal Research (LAR) mouse and rat colonies.

2. Responsibility

2.1 The LAR supervisor periodically, but not less than monthly, verifies that the procedures for changing sentinel cages is performed as described.

2.2 The Animal Care Technician (ACT) sets up the sentinel cage.

3. Definitions

3.1 N/A

4. Guidelines

4.1 Required equipment

4.1.1 Disposable plastic soup spoon.

4.1.2 Clean rodent cages with bedding.

4.2 Safety Precautions

4.2.1 Routine PPE (gloves, mask, gown, etc.) as required for the room.

4.3 Procedures

4.3.1 Prepare sentinel cage during each complete rack cage change-out, even if no sentinel animals are physically present at that time.

4.3.2 Change sentinel cage last.

4.3.3 Sentinel cage preparation and procedures:

4.3.3.1 For ventilated cage racks, or individual static shelving, take DRY soiled bedding from every cage on one side of the ventilated rack or shelving rack and place into the new sentinel cage as described in this SOP.

4.3.3.2 Prepare a separate sentinel cage on the second side of the ventilated rack in the same manner as the first side.

4.3.3.3 Add soiled bedding from each cage, according to table 1, to ensure 100% soiled bedding exposure and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of bedding total in the sentinel cage.

# Cages/Sentinel	# Spoonful Soiled Bedding from Each Cage
0-10	4
11-20	3
21-40	2
41 +	1

4.3.3.4 Place an extra clean cage outside the hood on a sanitized surface.

4.3.3.5 Discard bedding from this cage, but not the enrichment material.

4.3.3.6 Use a clean dedicated soup spoon for each sentinel cage. Place the clean plastic soup spoon into the new sentinel cage.

4.3.3.7 Transfer soup spoonful(s) per table 1 of dirty litter from each soiled cage to the new sentinel cage. Perform this as the dirty (non-sentinel) cage is removed from the hood and placed on the dirty cage cart.

4.3.3.8 If the cage normally has a filter top, maintain the filter top on the new sentinel cage when not actually adding soiled bedding. This can be a new filter top, or the one from the first cage changed out.

4.3.3.9 When adding soiled bedding to the sentinel cage for the first time write the date on the cage card even if no sentinel animals are physically present.

- 4.3.3.10 Do not collect wet bedding from soiled cages
- 4.3.3.11 Try to collect bedding from cages that contains fresh feces
- 4.3.3.12 Return animals in their clean cage to the rack.
- 4.3.3.13 Change out the sentinel animals into the newly prepared sentinel cage.
- 4.3.3.14 Return sentinel cage to its original location on the rack, designated as the lower left or lower right corner of the rack.
- 4.3.3.15 Remember, this is the last cage changed per side.
- 4.3.3.16 Verify the sentinel cage has proper identification, food, and water.
- 4.3.3.17 NOTE: If the sentinel cage is found wet or needs to be changed before the rack is scheduled to be changed, then place animals in clean dry cage, which should include new enrichment material, and document on sentinel cage card.

5. References

- 5.1 ACF SOP 501.01 Rodent Health Surveillance