

SOP for pest control in ISC animal facility

Developed by Ed Beary and approved by the IACUC 11/20/07

1. Monitoring will be carried out on a weekly basis to detect and determine the organisms which enter the facility. This may involve the use of sticky traps, glue boards, live traps and other methods deemed appropriate to adequately determine what is in the facility and where it is.
2. If an organism is deemed a pest requiring further control, appropriate control methods will be determined and applied based on the results of the initial monitoring. The number and location of the above mentioned items used for monitoring may be increased and appropriate baits and chemicals added to effect control.
3. Captured organisms will be removed from the facility and disposed of in a manner that will prevent their return to the facility.
4. To minimize the chances that pests will go unnoticed, nothing is to be stored directly on the floor. Anything that is deemed necessary to store in the animal facility, will be placed on existing shelving with a clear view of the area behind the shelves or the shelves will be situated to allow them easily moved for inspection on all sides. No paper or cardboard items will be stored in a manner that will permit insects or rodents to gain access to these items and use them for harborage and/or nesting materials.
5. If it is deemed necessary, I or someone under the supervision of the Vet will apply any materials labeled or functions as a pesticide in the facility. The use of any chemical will be considered only after non-chemical means have been demonstrated as failing to maintain the level of control needed for the operation of the facility under the regulations dictated by the various state and federal agencies and specific protocols of experiments. If pesticides are to be applied, faculty researchers will be notified of the date and time of pesticide application and will be asked to move their animals temporarily.
6. Periodic assessment will be made to determine the need to continue or change the methods used to monitor and control pests in the facility and related rooms.
7. Parasites and infectious agents found attacking the research organisms directly and are not part of the experimental protocol, will be handled by the individual researcher in consultation with the Veterinary Doctor hired for this purpose
8. A map of the facility, indicating the position of traps, will be maintained by myself. A copy is included.

Details

Pest control in the Animal Facility can be complicated, depending on the particular organisms being housed in the facility and the length of time they remain there. This makes it necessary to be selective as to the kinds of controls used in each room. At this point, mice, frogs, fish and snails are not potential pests for each other or for the facility. As long as the food for each group is in properly sealed containers and waste is removed frequently, there will be little to attract pests into the facility. Given that crickets and possibly other live organisms may be required as food sources for experimental organisms, care needs to be taken to avoid escape of the food items into the facility. Some escape must be anticipated so the room where the food is kept will be routinely trapped for the particular food item.

Eventually, grasshoppers will be used in research by one faculty. When assigned, the room will also need to be trapped and monitored routinely. Sticky traps will be used.

It is anticipated that eventually the American Cockroach, which has been a long established pest in Bailey Hall, will find its way to the ISC either in packing and instruments when Chemistry and Physics return to the ISC or by way of the steam system, which connects all the building in this quad. Once a roach is trapped on sticky traps, the traps will be changed to traps with attractive odors and IGR's and will be placed in all the rooms of the facility, if compatible with the research organisms present.

Some animal feeds, such as bird seed, have several insect pests associated with them which usually can not be detected until adults emerge from the seed. Appropriate food containers will be obtained to prevent any emerging insects from spreading to other areas of the facility. All feed, other than that needed for immediate use, will be kept in a manner acceptable to the state inspector and away from potential pest access.

Blue and yellow sticky traps will be used to initially monitor for small insects, which may fly into the facility or emerge from food supplies. The sticky traps may be used later to control the insects if it is determined that they are a pest requiring control.

Procedures need to be developed to prevent the emergence of insects from food items or sources for the food items need to be found to obtain material which has been treated to prevent insects from emerging from the food.

Mice may find their way into this facility, but it is less likely they will remain if hiding places are minimized and all food is containerized when not in use. Traps will be set at obvious entry points into the facility as well as in the room housing the mice during the time they are in the room. They will be checked weekly for any signs of entry. The traps can function to attract insects as well as rodents and will be used to monitor for both kinds of pests. Two traps will initially be used at the main entrance to the facility. If pests are trapped, more traps will be placed throughout the facility to determine the extent of the problem. The doors, as they exist now, are relatively rodent proof but not insect proof.

ISC Animal Facility Map

