

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
VA IACUC Policy # 23-13

Pest Control Policy for the Animal Research Facility

Policy: The purpose of the Pest Control Program is to prevent, control, and eliminate the presence of or infestation by pests in the ARF. The program consists of regularly scheduled visits from an exterminator, regular facility checks to ensure barriers are intact (door sweeps, cracks, etc...) to prevent feral animals and insects from entering, and procedures for ARF staff for reporting any signs of insects or feral rodents.

Procedures: An exterminator visits the hospital on a weekly basis. As part of the ARF pest control program, the exterminator is scheduled for routine visits to the ARF every three months. The exterminator proactively sprays the perimeter of the facility and monitors traps for feral mice. Should signs of insects or feral rodents be reported, the ARF supervisor notifies Environment Support Service, who in turn arranges for the exterminator to **come on an as needed basis**.

Notification of Animal Users: Facility users are informed by the supervisor of the extermination agent being used if needed in animal rooms. If an investigator objects to the use of the agent, alternate housing arrangements will be made for the animals before the agent is used.

Responsibilities:

1. Role of the Veterinary Medical Consultant and Animal Research Facility (ARF) Staff

During routine monthly inspections, the VMC will note any problem areas (such as bad door sweeps, cracks, etc) that may allow insects or feral rodents access to facility. If any such issues arise, the ARF supervisor will place a work order to have the problem repaired as soon as possible.

The ARF staff is responsible for reporting any insect or feral rodent sightings or any signs of such to the ARF supervisor. If any such sightings are reported, the ARF supervisor will immediately contact Environmental Support Service to arrange a special visit by the exterminator. If necessary, the supervisor will notify animal users of any extermination agent being used in the animal rooms. The ARF supervisor will keep a log of routine and special visits by the exterminator.

Additionally, ARF staff is to ensure all unopened bags of feed and bedding are kept on pallets off the floor and away from the wall. Once a bag is opened, it must be immediately transferred into a sealed container.

2. IACUC Oversight

The ARC may periodically review records and procedures for compliance to this policy.

Questions: Any questions on this policy should be directed to the A.O. (280-7222).

References:

- *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, NRC, 2011.

Effective date: A draft was distributed to ARF users and the policy approved at the ARC meeting on 7/07/2008. Subsequent updates and approvals on: 11/09/2009, 7/11/2011, 11/07/12, 11/06/13.