

TITLE:	Disease Surveillance & Management
Policy Number:	2014-011
Responsible Department:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy Contact:	IACUCOffice@westernu.edu
Approval Date:	7/9/14
Reviewed:	5/10/17; 2/12/2020
Revised:	5/10/17 (Added PI to be notified if infection and prior to initiating tx); 2/12/2020 (added: consider sentinel program for other species as needed; precautions for animals with known disease statuses).

Purpose of Policy: To keep all vivaria as free from microbial disease as possible by controlling or eliminating pathogens that may adversely affect scientific studies and the health and well-being of research animals, staff and research personnel.

Policy Information: The National Research Council's [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) states that "Appropriate procedures should be in place for disease surveillance and diagnosis."

To prevent, eradicate, or manage infectious disease, the following policies will be in effect:

- All laboratory animals must be procured through Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee-approved suppliers. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Attending Veterinarian (AV) prior to their procurement.
- A sentinel program must be maintained for rodent species belonging to the genus *Rattus* or *Mus* and should be considered for other species when applicable as determined by the AV.
- Animals with known disease statuses must be reviewed by the AV for potential human health impact with notification of potential risks to Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) so that they can notify staff who will potentially encounter the animals of all necessary precautions prior to the animals arriving on campus.
- Procedure areas must be disinfected after each use.
- Movement of personnel, cages or animals between facilities or between rooms within a facility must occur in such a manner as to prevent spread of disease.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be appropriate for the animal species, facility, and disease status within the facility.
- All nonstandard feed, bedding, housing, and environmental enrichment must be approved in the animal care and use protocol.

- Principal Investigators must be notified of an outbreak of an infection that could potentially affect their animals and prior to initiating any treatment by the veterinarian.
- Cages housing animals undergoing treatment for infection must be posted with “Under Treatment”.
- Additional actions will be implemented as necessary to ensure successful research outcomes and the well-being of laboratory animals, staff and research personnel.

Failure to follow these policies may result in disciplinary actions by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

References: SOP DAR2017-003 - Vivarium Room and Corridor Sanitation