

BACKGROUND

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) does not provide specific guidelines regarding pest management and control in institutional animal facilities, except for a requirement that control measures be humane. A pest is defined as ‘anything that may have a detriment to human or animal health’. Many types of pest control measures exist and include biological (e.g. natural enemies), mechanical (e.g. electronic wires), physical (e.g. barriers, traps), elimination of breeding grounds, and use of poison and other chemicals (e.g. pesticides) as examples. Institutions must have an awareness of provincial ([Pest Control Legislation](#)) and federal ([Health Canada Consumer Product Safety Acts and Regulations](#)) government legislation regarding pest control when implementing pest management and control programs in their animal facilities. The type of pest control is species-specific and often involves multiple strategies to assure adequate pest management.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the *UCACS Procedures on Pest Management and Control* is to provide guidelines for pest management and control procedures at animal facilities under the oversight of the UCACS. A pest management and control program is essential to protect the health and well-being of all animals belonging to the University of Saskatchewan’s Animal Care and Use Program.

SCOPE

This guideline document applies to all UCACS animal facilities and facility managers should refer to this document when establishing pest control programs and standard operating procedures at their facility. The pest control program should be designed to prevent, control, or eradicate pests in the animal facility.

RESPONSIBILITY

Facility managers are responsible to assure an adequate pest control program in their facility that is consistent with this guidance document. Personnel of the UCACS Animal Care and Use Program manage and maintain the pest control program and are responsible for frequent monitoring of the control procedures to ensure that pests do not encounter undue pain or distress and live pests are dispatched immediately using humane methods. These individuals should be trained to recognize signs of injury or abnormal behavior and to institute euthanasia.

PROCEDURE

1. GENERAL

- a. The procedures outlined in this document serve as a minimum guidance. Any exemption from the general guidelines requires UCACS approval prior to its implementation.
- b. Procedures are generally divided into ‘indoor’ and ‘outdoor’ facilities.
 - i. In indoor facilities pests include insects, feral rodents, and wild birds.

- ii. In outdoor facilities pests include insects (flying and crawling), feral rodents, wild birds, and wild mammals.

2. OUTDOOR FACILITIES

a. Pest Prevention and Control Strategies

- i. Develop a preventative and control plan suitable for the facility and potential pests. Consult with pest control professionals or commercial service, if necessary, and if a PI raises concerns regarding the pest control measure (e.g. use of pesticides), consult with the UCACS before implementing the pest control measure.
- ii. Use biological, mechanical, and physical pest control measures as appropriate for the species and the facility. Examples include:
 - 1. Use of electric wire or other proofing and screening materials to create a mechanical barrier that protect outside enclosures, paddocks, pens, pastures from pest entry into these areas.
 - 2. Use of natural predators (e.g. cats), which may require promotion of the habitat for the natural predators. If cats are used, animal care staff must assure provision of a secondary food source, water, and a health management plan (spay/neuter; vaccination, veterinary care) for these animals.
 - 3. Traps: Fly strips and live rodent traps are preferred. For trapping of larger mammals (e.g. coyotes), employ a professional organization (e.g. Saskatchewan Trapper's Association) to address the pest control of such species.
 - a. Situate traps near areas of concern such as feed/bedding storage, outdoor entrances.
 - 4. For enclosed facilities use door sweeps, seal cracks in walls/roof/foundation, cover openings and ceilings with screens.
- iii. Use of poisoned bait to control rats and gophers is acceptable only if collateral damage (non-target species or secondary poisonings) pose a very low risk. Time bait application and removal according to expert opinion and standards. The use of bait stations that allow access only of rodents is preferred.
 - 1. Pest control chemicals must be held in a clearly designated secure cabinet.
 - 2. Use poison bait approved by provincial legislation.
- iv. Modify the habitat to reduce its appeal to pests and/or eliminate the breeding grounds. Examples include:
 - 1. Graveling in areas or culturing areas to dig up and cover ground burrows.
 - 2. Flooding burrows.
 - 3. Planting vegetation that may act as a repellent to ground dwelling pests as examples.
 - 4. Limiting access of pests to feed supplies and water sources.

b. Monitoring

- i. Document all pest control measures, frequency of application, corrective measures in a pest control log.
- ii. Inspect traps at an appropriate frequency.
 - 1. Live traps require daily monitoring to reduce potential animal distress

- related to food or water deprivation.
- 2. Daily monitoring of lethal traps (e.g. snap traps) is recommended in case a pest is still alive and can be immediately euthanized.
- 3. Remove dead pests from the trap with gloves, double bag, and dispose of according to U or S biohazard waste disposal guidelines.
- iii. **Use of sticky/adhesive live board traps for rodents is strictly forbidden.**
- iv. If applicable, have insect traps examined by an exterminator to identify an appropriate extermination plan.

3. INDOOR FACILITIES

a. Pest Prevention and Control Strategies

- i. Develop a preventative and control plan suitable for the facility and potential pests. Consult with pest control professionals or commercial service, if necessary.
- ii. Use mechanical and physical pest control measures to prevent pest access to the facility. Examples include:
 - 1. Use of door sweeps on all doors particularly feed and bedding storage rooms, receiving areas, loading docks, and exterior doors.
 - 2. Store feed and bedding on pallets or shelves that are at least 15 cm from the wall and other pallets and shelves.
 - 3. Store open feed bags in sealed containers.
 - 4. Use a drain floor plate and flush floor drains and apply disinfectant to drains at least once a month to prevent pest access via the drainage system.
 - 5. Limit the time loading dock doors and exterior doors remain open upon receiving supplies and animals or with human access.
 - 6. Situate live traps near areas of concern such as feed/bedding storage, outdoor entrances.
 - 7. **Use of sticky/adhesive live board traps for rodents is strictly forbidden.**
 - 8. Maintain a regular cleaning, sanitation, and housekeeping schedule to control pest attraction to the facility.

b. Monitoring

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 - 2. Daily monitoring of lethal traps (e.g. snap traps) is recommended in case a pest is still alive and can be immediately euthanized.
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Approved by the UCACS, 30 May, 2014