

U-M PROGRAM FOR HANDLING SOILED BEDDING

According to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, “Experimental animals should be housed so that potentially contaminated food and bedding, feces, and urine can be handled in a controlled manner. Facilities, equipment, and procedures should be provided for appropriate bedding disposal.” Adherence to this standard will help protect personnel from zoonotic diseases and allergens, as well as reduce the potential for cross-contamination between animals.

Cages containing soiled bedding should be covered or otherwise securely contained, and transported to an area dedicated to the handling of soiled caging and bedding (e.g., cagewash area). Exceptional circumstances, such as when the bedding has been contaminated with a hazardous agent, may require removal of soiled bedding from caging within the animal housing room.

Wherever soiled bedding is removed from caging, a soiled bedding disposal unit (“dump station”) is recommended.¹ The dump station is a negatively pressurized hood/collection bin unit which either exhausts air directly to the outside or recirculates air via a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter into the room. The dump station will minimize both animal and personnel exposure to aerosolized particulate contaminants. If a dump station is not used, eye protection (goggles or face shield) and an air purifying, particulate respirator (3M #8710 or comparable) are *strongly recommended* for protection of personnel working with soiled bedding from rodents or rabbits, and *required* for protection of personnel exposed to nonhuman primate excreta. Personnel may be required to pass a respiratory function test and be fit-tested prior to gaining approval to wear this type of respirator.

¹ Personnel working with nonhuman primate excreta must also wear eye protection and a surgical mask or respirator while using the dump station.

Related Documents:

- UM Protective Clothing for Animal Care and Use -- Minimum Recommendations