



Cornell University
Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education

CARE538.01 **Vermin Program**

The intent of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe the procedures used to prevent and control vermin in Cornell animal facilities. This procedure is intended for use by all facility managers. This procedure is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE). Any exemption must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

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1. Introduction

Both the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals state that a regularly scheduled and documented program should be in place to ensure both the prevention and monitoring of vermin in all animal facilities. Vermin is defined as any animal, including insects, that enters a facility on its own volition and has the potential to spoil food or harm animals that are intentionally housed in the facility.

2. Materials

- door sweeps
- pallets
- disinfectant
- screening materials
- caulk
- vermin traps

3.) Procedures

N/A

a.) Laboratory Animal Facilities

- i.) Preventative measures

1. Consult with a university contracted service or a professional exterminator to accomplish the following:
 - a. Identify potential sources of vermin
 - b. Propose a preventative plan for that facility (type/location of traps, frequency of monitoring, etc.).
- 2.) Prevent vermin access to feed and bedding storage areas:
 - a. Install door sweeps on all feed room doors
 - b. Store feed bags on pallets or shelves kept at least 6 inches away from the walls and from other pallets (as per USDA regulations).
- 3.) Restrict vermin access to receiving areas, loading docks and exterior doors by installing door sweeps to all doors that have direct access to the exterior of the building.
- 4.) Perform routine maintenance on drains to prevent vermin from accessing them.
 - a. Flush drains no less than once a month.
 - b. Apply disinfectant to drains no less than once a month.

ii.) Corrective measures

1. Consult with a university contracted service or a professional exterminator.
2. Use of chemicals must be approved via a CARE veterinarian and the facility manager in conjunction applicable PI's.
3. Document all corrective measures in a vermin control log.

b.) Agricultural Facilities

Note: In agricultural facilities, vermin includes insects such as flies, rodents, wild mammals and birds.

i.) Preventative measures:

1. Arrange for professional evaluation of the facility to accomplish the following:
 - a. Identify potential sources of vermin
 - b. Propose a preventative plan for that facility (type/location of traps, frequency of monitoring, etc.).
2. Prevent entry of vermin to enclosed facilities:
 - a. Cover openings and ceilings with screens
 - b. Seal cracks in walls
 - c. Eliminate vermin breeding, roosting, and refuge sites.
3. Control vermin that have accessed the buildings:
 - a. Limit access of vermin to feed supplies and water sources
 - b. If using barn cats as vermin control, ensure the following measures are taken:
 - a. Spay or neuter all barn cats on protocol for vermin control
 - b. Vaccinate cats against common cat diseases
 - c. Keep individual health records for each cat

ii.) Monitoring:

1. Place rodent traps in areas of concern (i.e., feed/bedding storage, under sinks, near outdoor entrance, etc.) in all enclosed facilities
2. Inspect traps a minimum of once a month

Note: The use of live traps for rodents is discouraged. If live traps are used, monitor them daily.

- a. Do not use sticky traps for rodents.
 - b. Keep all traps containing insects until they have been evaluated by an exterminator.
 - c. Remove dead rodents from traps by using an inverted bag or gloves. Double bag dead rodent and dispose of it.
 - d. Document all trap monitoring and subsequent actions in a vermin control log.
- iii. Corrective measures
- a. Contact a license pesticide applicator or a commercial service.
 - b. Get approval for proposed treatments from a CARE veterinarian in conjunction with concerned PI's.
 - c. Document regular or seasonal treatments per farm SOP.
 - d. Document all corrective measures in a vermin control log.

4.) Safety

Caution: pesticide residues may persist in feed and could harm animals or pass into meat, milk and eggs.

5.)Contingencies N/A

6.) References

- a. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. National Research Council; National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1996.
- b. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching*. Federation of Animal Science Societies, Savoy, IL. 1999.

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