



Cornell University  
Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education

CARE621.01 Quarantine of Passeriformes

The intent of this procedure is to describe the CARE quarantine program for Passeriformes. This SOP is intended for use by all researchers and staff who work with Passeriformes. 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

The objective of the quarantine is to protect resident birds by isolating all incoming birds for a sufficient period of time to observe for possible clinical manifestation of incubating diseases.

### 2. Materials

- a. Shoe covers, a dedicated lab coat or gown, cap, gloves, safety glasses, N95 Respirator.  
**NOTE:** You need to be fitted for the respirator through EH&S.
- b. Disinfectant for cleaning (Bleach 1:20).
- c. Bird feed.
- d. Fecal sample supplies and coccidiostat (e.g., Amprolium).
- e. Chlamydia screening supplies.

### 3. Procedures

- a. Vendor/ Supplier
  - i. Acquire the birds from a reputable source.
  - ii. Pre-purchase health reports help to prevent the introduction of subclinical diseases but may not always be available.

- iii. Have the supplier send enough food with the birds to cover the first week to provide a smooth transition to the new diet.
- b. Housing
- i. Quarantine the birds for a minimum period of 45 days.
  - ii. Conduct the quarantine in a facility where no other birds are housed concurrently. A suitable alternative would be to use an isolated room (under negative pressure, with an anteroom) distant from other bird rooms.
  - iii. Separate the birds into smaller cages. Cage dimensions will vary depending on the breed and size of birds.
- c. Husbandry
- i. Access to the quarantine area should be limited to essential operations.  
**NOTE:** Personnel working with other birds must access the quarantine room at the end of their routine.
  - ii. Wear proper PPE as described in Section 2 a.
  - iii. Clean and disinfect waterers, feeders, perches, and cages weekly.
  - iv. Use a controlled application of bleach 1:20 on cleaned surfaces for disinfection.
  - v. Rinse the surfaces before allowing contact with the birds.
  - vi. Ensure that birds do not come in contact with the disinfectant during the contact period (~20 minutes) by transferring them to another cage or by confining them in one section of the cage.  
**NOTE:** Adopt the procedure least stressful for the birds.
  - vii. Remove and replace soiled food daily.
    - a. For the first week, provide a 50/50 mixture of the supplier's food and commercial bird seed, and egg food.
    - b. For the remainder of the quarantine period, in addition to the bird seed, provide egg food and bite sized dark leafy greens (e.g. turnip greens, collard greens, mustard greens, kale, dandelion greens, or parsley) &/or vegetables (e.g. green peas, broccoli, bok choy, or cabbage) twice a week.  
**Note:** Fresh greens and vegetables can be a source of bacterial or chemical poisoning. These items must be thoroughly rinsed prior to feeding.
  - viii. Observe birds daily for signs of illness.
    - a. Report abnormal animal behavior or appearance to CARE vet staff.
    - b. Whenever a bird is showing overt clinical signs or is found dead or moribund, a complete necropsy is required. The carcasses must be bagged and stored in a designated refrigerator and CARE veterinary staff must be informed.
- d. Treatment and Preventative
- i. Collect five fecal samples per cage at 7, 14, and 21 days following arrival for culture, gram stains, and parasitology.
  - ii. Chlamydia Screening:  
CBC and clinical chemistries (particularly AST)  
Chlamydia diagnostics (e.g., ELISHA, CF/LA)

Choanal, cloacal, conjunctival swabs

**NOTE: Chlamydiosis is a reportable disease because of its potential as a zoonotic agent.**

- iii. Administer 50 mg/L of Amprolium in the drinking water for the first 5 days of the quarantine period to reduce the incidence of clinical coccidiosis.
- iv. Repeat the coccidiostat treatment for the last 5 days of quarantine (just before their transfer).

**Note:** depending on the parasitology results, other treatment may be prescribed by the CARE veterinarian.

#### 4. Safety

- a. Wear proper PPE at all times.
- b. Wash hands after each visit.
- c. Zoonosis: *Microbacterium avium* (avian tuberculosis)  
*Salmonella*  
*Chlamydia (psittici)*

#### 5. Contingencies

- a. In the event of an animal emergency page CARE at 1-800-349-2456.
- b. For facility emergencies, contact Tim Van Deusen at 255-4260 or 227-4424.

#### 6. References

- a. <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/AUHSP/index.htm> - zoonosis info.
- b. <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>- respirator info.
- c. <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/> - SOP info.

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