

**University of Prince Edward Island
Animal Care Committee
Standard Operating Procedure**

SOP #: ACC - H05

SOP Title: Vermin Control Program

SOP Section: Husbandry

Created: June 2010

Review Date: November 2018

Issued by: Dr. Jonathan Spears

Version Date: November 2015

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The intent of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe the procedures used to prevent and control vermin in UPEI Animal Facilities. This procedure is intended for use by all facility managers. This procedure is approved by the UPEI Animal Care Committee. Any exemption must be approved by the Animal Care Committee prior to its application.

2.0 Materials

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

3.0 Procedures

3.1 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.

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 with applicable PI.
 3. Document all corrective measures in a vermin control log.

3.2 Agriculture Facilities

Note: In agriculture 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 to the buildings:
 - a. Limit access of vermin to feed supplies and water sources
- 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
 - a. If live traps are used, monitor them daily.

- b. Do not use sticky traps for rodents.
 - c. Keep all traps containing insects until they have been evaluated by an exterminator.
 - d. Remove dead rodents from traps by using an inverted bag or gloves. Double bag the dead rodent and dispose.
 - e. Document all trap monitoring and subsequent actions in a vermin control log.
- iii. Corrective measures:
 - 1. Contact a licensed pesticide applicator or a commercial service.
 - 2. Get approval for proposed treatments from the University Veterinarian in conjunction with concerned PI.
 - 3. Document regular or seasonal treatments.
 - 4. Document all corrective measures in a vermin control log.

4.0 Safety

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

5.0 Contingencies

N/A

6.0 References

- 6.1 *GUIDE TO THE CARE AND USE OF EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS*. Canadian Council on Animal Care, 1993
- 6.2 *Guidelines on Laboratory Animal Facilities- Characteristics, Design and Development*. Canadian Council on Animal Care. Ottawa Ontario. 2003