
	<b>Flinders University</b> <b>Safe Work Method Statement</b> <b>Guinea Pig- Daily Husbandry</b> <b>Procedures 18/06/19</b>			
				<b>College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facility</b>
<b>SWMS Number</b>	<b>RA Number</b>		<b>RA Score</b>	
SWMS- 3.4	RA 3.4		Medium	
<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>SWMS prepared by</b>	<b>AWC Approval Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>	
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### Legislation

- *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.*
- *Animal Welfare Act 1985*
- *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*
- [Gene Technology Act 2000](#) (the Act)
- [Gene Technology Regulations 2001](#)
- *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012*

### University Policy

- Work Health and Safety Policy 2013
- Responsible Conduct of Research Policy 2016
- NHMRC Guidelines

### Local Policy

Use of the College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facilities by all staff and researchers of the College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University, is subject to awareness of, and adherence to the following:

#### Research Involving Animals:

- The University holds a licence for the use of animals for teaching and research purposes. To satisfy the requirements of the licence, anyone wishing to undertake teaching and research using animals must submit a proposal to the Animal Welfare Committee (via the Animal Ethics Review Sub- Committee. No work with animals may commence until written approval has been received from the Animal Welfare Committee. Standardised application forms for Research and Teaching can be found on the Flinders University website listed below. It is your responsibility to regularly check this site for updates to guidelines, forms etc

[http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics\\_home.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics_home.cfm)

- **All staff and students involved in animal research must complete Animal Ethics Online Training (AEOT) and must also regularly attend Animal Researcher Information Sessions (ARIS).**

### Safe Work Method Statement

Refer to Risk assessments, Safe Work method Statements for chemicals, processes and plant equipment where appropriate. All projects must have an accompanying Risk Assessment signed by the Animal Facility Manager

RA 3.0 Guinea Pig- Sexing, Handling and Restraint  
 SWMS 3.0 Guinea Pig - Sexing, Handling and Restraint  
 RA 3.5 Guinea Pig- Breeding Colony Maintenance  
 SWMS 3.5 Guinea Pig - Breeding Colony Maintenance

### Personal Protective Equipment Required

- **Gloves – to be worn throughout entire procedure**
- **Gown**
- **Mask**
- **Hair Net**
- **Shoe Covers**

### Hazards and Controls

- **Animal bites- training, demonstrate competency, adhere to SWMS**
- **Animal Scratches- training, demonstrate competency, adhere to SWMS**
- **Development of Allergies- wear PPE when cleaning cages**
- **Zoonosis- wear PPE when entering the stock room (Room 8.1)**

### Before Work Commences

**Ensure that you are aware of the locations of the following:**

- **Spill Kit**
- **Fire Extinguisher**
- **Eye Wash**
- **Exits**

**Risk Assessment and SDS (Safety Data Sheet) - Ensure that you have read and understood for all the substances being used.**

### **Equipment**

- **Ensure that you have read and understood the Risk Assessment and Safe Work Method Statement**
- **Obtain training before using any equipment**

### General Information

- **All procedures are to be performed by trained competent staff.**
- **Training is available from senior animal house staff or Animal Welfare Officer.**
- **Evidence of training is available in the “Training Needs Analysis”.**

### Environmental Conditions

Temperature	18 – 24°C
Humidity	40-70%
Photo period	12hr light: 12hr dark
Light intensity	350 lux (max)
Room Ventilation	10-20 air changes/ hr

### Stocking Density

#### **Minimum Housing Standards for Guinea Pigs\***

	Weight (g)		Min floor area cm <sup>2</sup>
	single	group	
<b>GUINEA PIGS</b>	single	250-550	900
		>550	1000
	group	250- 550	450
		>550	600
	breeding	F + litter	1200
		per F in harems	1000

*\*Dept. Primary Industries "Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits" 2004*



**Floor Pen**  
205 x 142cm



**Able Pen**  
Full pen- 200 x 115cm  
Half Pen- 100x115cm, Quarter Pen 50 x 115cm



**Battery**  
75 x 65cm

Cage Type	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Breeders females with Litters	Group Housed	
			250-550g	>550g
Floor Pen	29,110	24	50	48
Able Full Pen	23,000	19	40	24
Able Half Pen	11,500	9	20	12
Quarter pen	5,750	4	10	6
Battery	4,875	4	5	3

### Daily Husbandry

1. Guinea Pigs require fresh fruit and vegetables on a daily basis. Feed and water Guinea Pig breeder room (7.1) before the animals in the stock room (8.1).
2. Remove the trolley from the cold room, cut up half a tub of apples, half a tub of carrots, and two bunches of spinach, and wheel the trolley to the room.
3. Remove and discard any food that has not been eaten.
4. Shake the pellet feeders to remove any dust, and fill the hopper with pellets.
5. Evenly distribute one bunch of spinach between the breeder pens in room 7.1, plus handful of apples and carrots.
6. Check each Guinea pigs for ill health and for any new litters born. Litters can be recorded on the white board in the room with the number born, date, and tub number.

7. Remove and clean the water bowls, and refill with fresh water and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a teaspoon of Vitamin C powder (Ascorbic Acid) located on the sink. Return the water bowl to the pen. NOTE: Vitamin C in the drinking water must be replenished daily.
8. Sweep the floor.
9. Mop the square with F10sc before pushing the trolley inside.
10. Take note of the number Guinea Pigs in each cage/tub and provide the appropriate amount of food:
  - 1-2 Guinea Pigs** - 2-4 spinach leaves, 1- 3 pieces of apple and carrot.
  - 3-4 Guinea Pigs** - 5-6 spinach leaves, 5-10 pieces of apple and carrot.
  - 5+ Guinea Pigs** - handful of spinach leaves, handful of apples and carrots.
11. Remove and clean the water bowls, and refill with fresh water and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a teaspoon on Vitamin C powder (Ascorbic Acid) located on the sink. Return the water bowl to the pen. NOTE: Vitamin C in the drinking water must be replenished daily.
12. Sweep the floor.
13. Mop the square and thoroughly spray the trolley with F10sc when exiting the room.

### Cleaning Guinea Pig Pens and Cages

**NOTE: Before cleaning any cages or pens, check the number of animals against the cage card. Notify the Senior Animal Technician immediately if there are any discrepancies.**

1. The Guinea pig cages and pens are cleaned once a week, or as required.
2. Place a holding cage on top of a Guinea pig pen and cover the top with a drape so the Guinea Pigs have somewhere to hide.
3. Remove all Guinea Pigs from their pen or cage tub and put them into the holding cage. Clean one pen at a time to make sure that guinea pigs are not accidentally mixed.
4. Remove water bowl and pellet hopper (the pellet hopper can be hung on the side of the cage).
5. Using an appropriate size shovel, remove all of the soiled bedding and place it into the organic bin.
6. Use an appropriate size broom to sweep up any remaining bedding, and remove the remains with the dustpan and broom.
7. Using a bucket of warm water, wipe out the base and all sides of the pens and cages.
8. Pour sufficient fibre cycle bedding into the pen or cage to cover the base bag for added absorption and spread evenly.
9. Use sufficient wood shavings to cover the base of the pen or cage leaving the front  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the pen or cage free of shavings.
10. Clean the hides with a wet cloth and return it to the correct tub.
11. Continue for the remaining pens and cages.

12. Provide each pen with approx. 1 1/2 biscuits of oaten hay (1 biscuit for cages). Spread the oaten hay over the hides.
13. Return the pellet hopper to the pen and refill and return water bowl with clean water and Vitamin C powder.
14. Sweep and mop room (7 litres of water with 57ml of F10sc).

### Trimming Nails

1. Check the Guinea Pigs toe nails in the first week of each month, and trim nails when cleaning as required. Two people are required to trim nails, one to restrain the guinea pig and the other to trim nails.
2. Record on the health care form.

### Treatment, Euthanasia or Deceased Animals

- Guinea Pigs can suffer from a range of illnesses. **If a Guinea Pig is found to be sick:**
  1. Call the Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) immediately.
  2. Weigh the animal and record all information on the animal care forms located in the room.
  3. Provide treatment as recommended by the AWO.
  4. If the severity of the illness requires euthanasia, contact the Animal Welfare Officer for the correct method of euthanasia.
  5. Place the body in a yellow bag, label the bag, and leave it in the cool room. DO NOT freeze the carcass so the AWO is able to perform a necropsy. Complete a necropsy request form with all of the appropriate information.
- **On finding a deceased animal:**
  1. Place the body in a yellow bag, label the bag, and leave it in the cool room. DO NOT freeze the carcass so the AWO is able to perform a necropsy Complete a necropsy request form with all of the appropriate information.
  2. Contact all the appropriate people.

### SWMS Review

This SWMS currently applies to the animals housed in the College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facility. This SWMS will be reviewed 3 yearly, but also updated more frequently as policies, techniques and animal care requirements change.

Position	Name	Contact Details
Manager Animal Facility	Roxanne Collingwood	8204 4380 <a href="mailto:roxanne.collingwood@flinders.edu.au">roxanne.collingwood@flinders.edu.au</a>
Animal Welfare Officer	Lewis Vaughan	0450 424 143 <a href="mailto:awo@flinders.edu.au">awo@flinders.edu.au</a>

**Useful References**

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1>

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/>

[http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics\\_home.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics_home.cfm)

Any questions regarding the above guidelines and any technical advice/ assistance required can be directed to Animal Facility Manager.