

TOWSON UNIVERSITY
REPORTING ANIMAL HEALTH PROBLEMS S.O.P.

1. The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to provide a procedure for reporting animal health related issues. By observing animals daily and frequently, confirming health status regularly, and reporting animal health concerns promptly to the veterinary staff, continued quality animal care is provided to the animals in our charge.
2. All animals are to be examined daily by the Husbandry staff. When examining animals, it may be necessary to remove cages from racks (e.g. rodents) to fully evaluate all animals in that cage. A flashlight may be used to assist you in examining animals. Husbandry staff plays a critical veterinary medical care role through identifying animals that require veterinary medical care.
3. The signs of disease to look for include:
 - a. rough hair coat
 - b. any type of discharge from eyes, ears or nose
 - c. open wounds, cuts, or abnormal skin conditions (hair loss, crusted or scabbed skin, tumors/mass).
 - d. diarrhea or vomiting
 - e. blood in cage
 - f. abnormal behavior, posture (hunched), or lameness
 - g. loss of weight
 - h. coughing, sneezing, or difficulty breathing
 - i. not eating (lack of normal amounts of feces in cage or pan)
 - j. not drinking (lack of normal amounts of urine in cage or pan)
 - k. other conditions that are not normal
4. To report any of these conditions:
 - a. Complete the Animal Health Report, located on a clipboard for the animal room. Identify the building, room, species, problem, Principal Investigator, and animal ID if necessary.
 - b. Place a red "Request for Health Evaluation" card on the cage to identify the individual cage or cages that require veterinary attention.
 - c. File the Animal Health Report on the clipboard outside the animal room.
 - d. Submit a request via email, text message, or direct phone call for the animal to be evaluated by the on call Veterinarian (Dr. DeTolla). The numbers to contact are: 410-706-8537, 443-677-9028. Email communications are best to serve as documentation of the veterinary medical care process (detolla@vetmed.umaryland.edu).
 - e. Specify whether it is an emergency and immediate attention is necessary (e.g. may include; dehydration to the point of lethargy to immobility, active bleeding, labored breathing, animal is immobile, signs of dystocia lasting more than 15 minutes).
 - f. Backup veterinarian is Dr. Brent Whitaker. 443-604-6363.