

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & LIFE SAFETY

### *Procedures for Bedding, Sharps and Carcass Disposal from the Animal Use Areas*

#### **Animal carcasses:**

Carcasses must be placed in freezers for transport to the crematorium. All carcasses must be placed in a bag prior to being placed in the freezer. Double nitrile gloves, non-slip shoes and gowns/scrubs/disposable coveralls must be worn during carcass transport and disposal.

#### **Sharps:**

Used syringes or other sharps must be disposed of in sharps containers. Syringes used to administer drug to animals must be placed in a sharps container. Please note that sharps containers are only for the disposal of sharps, and excess chemicals or containers may not be placed within the sharps container.

#### **Cage labelling and bedding disposal:**

Non-hazardous bedding where animals have not been administered chemical or biological agents should be collected, and placed in a dumpster for disposal.

Once a chemical or biological agent is administered to an animal, a cage card must be filled out with the agent name and each date of dose administration. A dissolvable biohazard (orange) or chemical hazard (yellow) sticker must be placed on the cage, respectively.

If a Particular Hazardous Substance is being administered, refer to the Standard Operating Procedures' (from EHLS) PPE requirements. See procedures below for biological and chemical bedding disposal.

#### **Bedding with chemical waste:**

Cage cards will be filled in with agent name and date of dose administration. Cages will be returned to dirty side cage wash and the contents of the cage disposed of in the following manner.

1. A powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) must be worn when dumping cages. Double nitrile gloves, non-slip shoes and gowns/scrubs/disposable coveralls must also be worn.
2. Bedding must be dumped into a waste bag using a scraper.
3. The waste bag must be placed into a 5-6 gallon screw top pail, and then sealed. The pail must be labeled with the chemical agent's name.

4. EHLS will then dispose of the pail through the hazardous waste vendor when a request is received from ACO.
5. The clean cage into which the animals are transferred to is labeled with the accompanying cage card and with a yellow dissolvable sticker which indicates the date of the change-out. After two change-outs from the last dose administered, the bedding can then be treated as non-hazardous bedding.

**Bedding with biological waste:**

Cage cards will be filled in with agent name and date of dose administration. Cages will be returned to dirty side cage wash and the contents of the cage is disposed of in the following manner.

1. A powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) must be worn when dumping cages. Double nitrile gloves, non-slip shoes and gowns/scrubs/disposable coveralls must also be worn.
2. Bedding must be dumped into a red biohazard waste bag using a scraper.
3. Biohazard bags will be tied, and the outside will be sprayed with Spor-Klenz or LPH. The bag will be disposed of in a marked biohazard box.
4. EHLS will then dispose of the biohazard box through the biomedical waste vendor when a request is received from ACO.
5. The clean cage into which the animals are transferred to is labeled with the accompanying cage card and with an orange dissolvable sticker.

**Facilities without cage wash capabilities:**

Cage cards will be filled in with agent name and date of dose administration.

1. Double nitrile gloves, lab coat, face mask and eye protection will be worn during cage decontamination.
2. All procedures performed during cage decontamination will take place in the biosafety cabinet.
3. Bedding must be dumped into a red biohazard waste bag using a scraper.
4. The empty cage(s) will be sprayed, inside and out, with Spor-Klenz or LPH and components will remain soaked with Spor-Klenz or LPH for a minimum of 10 minutes. After contact time has transpired, all cage components will be stacked and placed in a red biohazard bag and made ready for transport.
5. Biohazard bags will be tied, and the outside will be sprayed with Spor-Klenz or LPH. The bag will be disposed of in a marked biohazard box.
6. EHLS will then dispose of the biohazard box through the biomedical waste vendor when a request is received from ACO.
7. The clean cage into which the animals are transferred to is labeled with the accompanying cage card and with an orange dissolvable sticker.