

Escaped Mouse Procedures

Standard Operating Procedures

- I. Purpose: This SOP is to help prevent infection from outside sources to Purdue University mouse colonies. Mice that have been on the floor present a risk to the mouse colonies, especially in areas outside the animal facility which may have less biosecurity and infrequent cleanings. Infectious agents from mice outside of the buildings can be tracked in on shoes, contaminating the floors in labs and other spaces where animals may be used. In order to perform excellent research and provide good animal welfare, the animal colonies must be kept free of harmful infectious agents.
- II. Procedure
 - A. Mice found ***in a cage*** in cage wash, hallways, or procedure rooms without cage cards or other identification (including “pinkies” and neonates found in dirty cages in hallway/cage wash area):
 1. Notify the Facility Supervisor
 2. Euthanize mice using carbon dioxide or decapitation (for neonates)
 - B. If a mouse is ***found loose*** or in a humane trap in the hallway, procedure room, cage wash:
 1. Notify the Facility Supervisor
 2. Euthanize mice using carbon dioxide
 - C. Mice ***found in housing rooms*** with/without proper identification, or loose in room:
 1. Place animals in clean microisolator cage with food and water.
 2. Look for identification (ear tag/notches)
 3. Label green research card with any information available:
 - a. Location where animal was found
 - b. Any identifiers
 - c. Date
 - d. Sex, age (juvenile, adult)
 4. Place a pink “Special Husbandry” card on cage and write “Dropped mouse, handle last” on the top portion of the card.
 5. Document number of found mice on the room observation chart as a note.
 6. Notify Facility Supervisor.
 7. Facility Supervisor will notify all PI’s in the room/suite of the information regarding the animal that was found.
 8. If the animal is not claimed within 5 business days, the animal is to be euthanized with carbon dioxide by the Facility Supervisor (can be delegated to care staff).
 9. If claimed, follow procedures for section D below

10. The animal is to be handled last during all cage manipulations, including after sentinel animals.

D. Mice **dropped onto the floor** in an animal housing or approved procedure space **within the animal facility**.

1. Place a pink "Special Husbandry" card on cage and write "Dropped mouse, handle last" on the top portion of the card.
2. Notify the Facility Supervisor.
3. The animal is to be handled last during all cage manipulations, including after sentinel animals.
4. The animal will require pathogen testing after 3 weeks (serology, PCR oral swab, fecal PCR, and fur swab) unless euthanized. The testing will be at the PI's expense unless the animal was dropped by LAP staff.
5. Alternatively, the animal can be housed in quarantine and undergo standard quarantine testing procedures for mouse pathogens. This process takes 6-8 weeks and will be at the expense of the PI, unless the animal was dropped by LAP staff. Please contact LAP for this option.
6. The Facility Supervisor is to notify LAP of any mice that are to be tested.
7. Caging for the held mice will be autoclaved out until negative test results are received.
8. A final option is to euthanize the mouse, as it may not be ideal for research use if it was exposed to any infectious agents on the floor.
9. **Exceptions** include mice infected with infectious agents (housed in ABSL-2 conditions) as approved on protocol and LAP training animals, which should always be handled last. These animals may return to the colony.

E. Mice **dropped onto the floor, outside of the animal facility**

1. The mouse is to be euthanized
2. Alternatively, the animal can be housed in quarantine and undergo standard quarantine testing procedures for mouse pathogens. This process takes 6-8 weeks and will be at the expense of the PI. Please contact LAP for this option.

Appendix A. Escaped Mouse Procedures

Area Found	Action Taken	Testing Required
Mouse left in unlabeled cage in procedure room/cage wash area or hallway	Euthanize	NO
Mouse found in trap in hallway/procedure room/Cage Wash	Euthanize	NO
Mouse found in housing room in a cage with no identification	Contact PIs; they have 5 business days to claim mouse and place appropriate cage card; if not claimed, euthanize	NO
Mouse found loose in room (on floor)	Place in clean cage and label per SOP; contact PIs; they have 5 business days to claim mouse	Yes (PI Expense) or choose to euthanize
Mouse dropped on floor of animal room	Place in clean cage with appropriate identification and hold for testing	Yes (at expense of group that dropped the mouse) or choose to euthanize
Mouse dropped on floor of procedure room	Place in clean cage with appropriate identification and place back in animal room to hold for testing	Yes (PI Expense) or choose to euthanize
Mouse dropped on floor outside animal facility	Euthanize or notify LAP of need to quarantine mouse	If quarantined - Yes (at PI expense)