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Title: Cleaning and Disinfecting Stalls, Runs and Enclosures for Large/Agricultural Animals

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum standards for cleaning and disinfecting stalls, runs and enclosures for animals in a large/agricultural animal setting.

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for large/agriculture animals must meet or exceed these minimum requirements for cleaning and disinfecting stalls, runs and enclosures based on the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (the Ag Guide). Animals used in biomedical research and non-standard agricultural teaching must additionally meet the requirements in the Animal Welfare Act and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, current edition covered on the Standards of Care 60-101 Cleaning and Disinfection of Animal Cages and Accessories

III. Procedure:

Different levels of sanitation may be appropriate under different circumstances. Animals can harbor microbes that can be pathogenic to humans and other species. Hence, manure should be removed regularly unless a deep litter system or a built-up manure pack is being employed.

Animals housed in intensive laboratory environments should be kept clean and dry, and excreta should be removed on an appropriate schedule to achieve clean animals.

Stalls, runs and enclosures must be cleaned as needed (see facility husbandry SOP's for frequency), usually daily, to control pests, keep animals clean and dry, and maintain the air suitably free of dust and odors, especially ammonia.

Appropriate biosafety practices should be exercised with manure of animals infected with known pathogens and approvedmethods of appropriate waste disposal should be used.

Water delivery systems must be cleaned as needed to ensure adequate water supply and to prevent transmission of microbial- or contaminant associated disease. Water delivery

systems should be cleaned as needed to prevent algae or dirt from accumulating, preferable at least every 30 days.

It is important to monitor feeders daily to ensure that these are clean, free of moldy or wet feed, and not broken or damaged. The container should be cleaned out and soiled feed removed regularly.

Health and performance of animals can be affected by the time interval between successive occupations of intensive facilities. Complete disinfection of such quarters during the unoccupied phase of an all-in, all-out regimen of facility management is effective for disease management in some situations.

Where serious pathogens have been identified, the immediate environment may need to be disinfected as part of a preventive program. Elimination of moist and muddy areas in pastures may not be possible, but prolonged destocking is an available option. Drylot facilities may need to be scraped and refilled with uncontaminated materials. Thorough cleaning of animal housing facilities may be followed by disinfection. Selection of disinfection agents should be based on knowledge of potential pathogens and their susceptibilities to the respective agents.

When warranted, waste and bedding that have been removed from a site occupied by an animal that has died should be moved to an area that is inaccessible to other animals and the site appropriately disinfected.

For terminal cleaning, all organic debris should be removed from equipment and from floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces. If sanitation depends on heat for effectiveness, the cleaning equipment should be able to supply water that is at least 82°C (180°F). When chemical disinfection is used, the temperature of wash water may be cooler. If no machine is available, surfaces and equipment may be washed by hand with appropriate detergents and disinfectants and with vigorous scrubbing.