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Written by:	<i>June 2023</i>	<i>C. Moats</i>
Revision by: (numbered accordingly)	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>
Distribution	All	

HM –67: Rodent Escape Procedures

Purpose: To describe the proper procedures and practices for addressing rodent escapes in JHU vivaria.

Scope: This document applies to all JHU vivaria excluding ABSL-3 facilities. If a rodent escape occurs in ABSL-3 facilities, refer to the ABSL-3 manual for instructions.

Associated Documents:

- HM-61 ABSL-3 Manual
- HM –46: Live Rodent Traps

Research Animal Resources (RAR) Personnel Responsibilities:

- **Husbandry Staff:** address rodent escapes according to this SOP
- **Husbandry Supervisor:** addresses rodent escapes according to this SOP; contacts appropriate research staff regarding animal escape; provides retraining to research and husbandry staff to help prevent rodent escapes
- **Research personnel:** Decide to keep escaped animal, upon consultation with veterinarians
- **Veterinary LAM trainee and staff:** Oversee all aspects of animal health and address any veterinary medical problems; work with investigators to determine steps on keeping escaped animals
- **Director, Rodent Resources:** Will review all deviations in this process and implement corrective action or SOP revision accordingly

Procedures:

In the event that a rodent(s) escapes and ends up on the floor, do the following:

1. Try to capture animal(s) immediately.
2. If in a room and if immediate capture attempts are unsuccessful, secure the room (deactivate automatic doors, etc.) before moving forward with additional capture attempts.
3. Continue additional capture attempts for a limited amount of time. If animal is unable to be captured after a sustained attempt, contact area husbandry supervisor for further instruction.

4. Husbandry supervisor or personnel will proceed with placing traps. All traps will be managed per HM-46: Live Rodent Traps.
5. If needed, contact pest control company to seek further assistance.

Once the rodent is captured:

1. Place the animal in a separate cage. Do not house with other animals that have not been exposed to the floor.
2. Identify the cage with a flag that indicates that the animals are high risk and should be handled LAST.
3. Change gloves and disinfect surfaces/equipment after handling the animals.
4. Contact the area husbandry supervisor immediately to notify them of the escape and capture.

If the investigator owning the animal is known:

1. If research personnel do not know of the escape incident, the area husbandry supervisor will immediately inform the lab and ask regarding disposition of the animal, i.e., either euthanize or be tested negative for excluded pathogens so as to be kept in the facility.
2. Research personnel decides on the disposition of the animal.
3. If the animal is critical to research and the lab intends to keep the animal, the veterinarian is consulted for the next steps regarding testing.

Follow up:

1. The supervisor will follow up with research or husbandry/veterinary personnel regarding the circumstances of the escape.
2. Retraining of research or husbandry/veterinary personnel by the supervisor may be required.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the JHU Animal Care and Use Program document “**Rodent Escape**” and I will follow this procedure. I agree to bring any deviations in this procedure to the attention of my supervisor/GPS Working Group.

Name (Print)

Date

Signature