

Title: Animal Escape	
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Category: General & Safety	Subcategory:
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Purpose, Scope and Background

To summarize procedures taken to prevent animal escapes and actions to take if an animal does escape. Any animal that gets out of its enclosure or gets loose in the housing room will be reported to the Facility Manager and Veterinarian.

Roles and Responsibilities

This SOP applies to all personnel who work in the vivarium, including investigator staff, who may discover an animal that has escaped from its cage. Members of the capture team refer to SOP 1008 for re-capture of animals that have escaped.

Procedure

1. Preventing Animal Escapes

A. Animal cage security

1. Locks: Always check to see that a lock is properly latched. This can be done by pulling on the body of the lock once it has been placed.
2. Cage front access: Use one brass lock to secure the front door of the group-3 cages. Use two brass locks to secure the front door of the group-4 and group-5 cages.
3. Side-gate access: All side-gates should be locked in the closed position with the exception of those that are open to facilitate grooming or run-through contact.
4. Grooming contact and run-through cage sets: Cages used to facilitate contact should be locked with a brass lock at the front and back of the cage set. Always use cage racks with the "Security hoops" to prevent smaller animals from escaping through any gaps in the cage set.
5. Transfer box: Always use the attached barrel-latch when an animal is placed in a transfer box. Also, an animal should not be left unattended in a transfer box or held in a box for an extended amount of time.

B. Animal room security

1. Close all animal room doors and assure that the doors latch.
2. If changing an animal's cage in the hallway, be sure to isolate the area by closing and latching all doors and posting signs to notify personnel of this activity.

2. Notification Process for an Animal Escape

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- A. NO ONE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE AN ANIMAL ALONE.
- B. Anyone within the room/area of a loose animal should leave IMMEDIATELY, making sure the animal does not escape the room/area.
- C. Hang an "Animal Loose in Room" sign on the door to let others know not to enter the room. (Animal Loose in Room signs are located outside the housing rooms in each area).
- D. IMMEDIATELY notify the Animal Technician Supervisor, lead AT in lieu of Supervisor, or Veterinary Staff. After hours or if staff cannot be easily located, call the Husbandry on-call pager number, 206-540-5742.
- E. The Animal Technician Supervisor or lead AT will notify the Veterinary Staff and the Animal Capture Team. Alternately, the Veterinary Staff will notify the Animal Technician Supervisor and the Animal Capture Team.
- F. Some research personnel have a training relationship with their animals and should be called upon to assist in capture of such animals if willing.

Keywords

Escape, loose, capture.

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