

Standard Operating Procedures

#AU 0019: Animal Husbandry

Materials/Apparatus/Equipment

Standard Juniper Cages (Hagen): 15”l x 10”d x 18”h

3-5 perches: at least one of which is plastic and holds a 4” x 6” white wall, allowing a space for birds to hide

Water tube

Hagen water vitamin supplement

Coloured food cup (ground sunflower seeds, whole sunflower seeds, and sunflower seeds with shells)

Coloured grit cup

Cuttlebone

Coloured bath tub

Coloured egg cup

Newspaper lining floor of each cage

Daily checklist

Birds that are housed long term are held within the identical cages and with the same provisions. In addition, these birds are provided with a fresh shallow bath each day in their cage. Cages are placed on a rack, 2 per shelf, up to 6 birds (i.e., 3 shelves). A maximum of 12 birds (i.e., 2 racks) can be housed in the available holding room. See SOP #0019 for details on animal husbandry.

Animal Health:

- Each morning the Animal Caretaker will observe the birds for signs of illness, injury or death. Clinical signs observed may include: anorexia, weight loss, nasal discharge, ocular discharge, head tilt, closed eyes, puffy feathers, and changes in behavior or mannerisms.
- If a health problem is detected the caretaker will immediately notify the Principle Investigator (or next Emergency Contact), complete an Animal Illness Report and Checklist, and make note of the concern and bird ID on the Animal Daily Checklist.
- If the birds appear healthy, the caretaker will place his/her initials in the designated space of the Animal Daily Checklist.
- If an animal is found dead or injured, contact the Principle Investigator immediately.

Husbandry:

Daily

- Top up food cups with fresh food; discard food in food cups (in biohazard bin) if there are any feces present, and replace with clean, filled food cup. Wash all dirty food cups with hot water and scrub pad.
- Check grit cup for presence of grit; if empty, or if any feces are present in cup, replace with clean, filled grit cup. Wash all dirty grit cups with hot water and scrub pad.
- Remove water bottles and replace with clean bottles filled with fresh dH₂O. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays drop a small amount (1/4 scoop) of vitamin into clean water bottle prior to filling it. Wash all dirty water bottles with hot water and scrub brush.
- Remove baths and replace with clean baths half filled with tepid tap water. Wash all dirty baths with hot water and scrub pad.
- One mealworm is provided in grit cup.
- Check room temperature (68F-72F optimal) and humidity (40%-70% optimal). Anything outside these ranges should be noted in the Animal Daily Checklist and the PI should be contacted immediately.
- Complete and initial Animal Daily Checklist.

Weekly

- Change paper under individual cages and dispose of used paper in clearly marked biohazard bin with tear-resistant biohazard bag.
- Boil eggs, grind shells, mix together and provide small amount to each bird in clean egg cup. Remove egg cups the next day during Daily Husbandry, wash with hot water and scrub pad.
- Indicate all activities in the Animal Daily Checklist.

Monthly

- Exchange individual cages, cage bottom (including wire grate and plastic tray if applicable) for a clean cage set-up.
- Exchange dirty shelving unit with clean shelving unit.
- Indicate all activities in the Animal Daily Checklist.