

This color-coded husbandry step down plan is intended to convey how the Division of Animal Resources (DAR) will operate with decreased staffing due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Depending on conditions beyond our control it is possibly that we could go from Green to Black in a short period or that one facility could be functioning well while another suffers a drastic decrease in staff due to forced quarantine of staff members.

### **PHASE 1**

#### **VCU Mandated Building Closure March 23,2020**

- No Change – Normal Husbandry Practices per DAR SOP
- Satellite Facility – Trani Life Science Vivarium – Relocated to Sanger Hall
- No USDA Orders
- No Import or Exports received after March 27,2020

### **Phase 2**

#### **Extended change times. 20% reduced staff**

##### **Mice**

- Cages with 3 or more mice per cage, changed every 14 days if on a ventilated rack.
- Cages with less than 3 mice will move to a 21-day change cycle.
- Static housed mice will be changed over to ventilated cages.

##### **Rats**

- No deviation in husbandry practices if on a ventilated rack.

##### **Rabbits**

- No deviation in husbandry practices.

##### **Primates**

- No deviation in husbandry practices, enrichment delivery, or pan change schedule.

##### **Swine**

- No deviation in husbandry practices.

**Phase 3**  
**Critical cage changes.**  
**50% reduced staff**  
**Volunteer Husbandry Core Activated**

- ✓ Necessary to start depopulation of mouse pups in breeder cages.
- ✓ New Rodent Orders must be approved by Attending Veterinarian.
- ✓ Experimental Transfers Discontinued unless authorized by Attending Veterinarian.
- ✓ Weaned Pup Transfers Limited to and from Transgenic Mouse Core Protocol.

Mice

- Moved to spot changes as directed by Managers and Assistant Vivarium Managers

Rats

- Moved to spot changes as directed by Managers and Assistant Vivarium Managers

Rabbits

- Pulling of pans moved to twice weekly.
- Rack change out to 14 days. Depending on how soiled condition of the caging.

Primates

- Pans pulled daily, however twice a week by research staff would be preferable.

Swine

- No change in husbandry practices.

**Phase 4**  
**Ultra-Critical husbandry**  
**75% reduced staff**

- ✓ Continuation of depopulating mouse pups from breeder cages.
- ✓ No New Orders.
- ✓ No Experimental Transfers.
- ✓ Weaned Pup Transfer Limited to and from Transgenic Core Protocol.
- ✓ Continuation of depopulating mouse pups from breeder cages.
- ✓ No New Orders.
- ✓ No Experimental Transfers.
- ✓ Weaned Pup Transfer Limited to and from Transgenic Core Protocol.

Mice

- Moved to spot changes as directed by Management.

Rats

- Moved to spot changes as directed by Management.

Rabbits

- Pulling of pans moved to twice weekly.
- Rack change out to 14 days. Depending on the soiled condition of the cages.

Primates

- Pans pull daily, however twice a week by research staff would be preferable.

Swine

- No change in husbandry practices.

## Phase 5

Disaster plan -

Little or no husbandry staff.

- ✓ Attending Veterinarian to determine best course of action.