Guiding Principle

This Guiding Principle is to provide guidelines for pest management and control procedures for areas under IACUC oversight, specifically for the elimination of arthropod pests, wild rodents and other invasive species (i.e. birds). A pest management and control program is essential to protect the health and well-being of all animals under the NDSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Program.

Requirements

The Guide, Eighth Edition, page 74 “Programs designed to prevent, control, or eliminate the presence of or infestation of pests are essential in an animal environment. A regularly scheduled and documented program of control and monitoring should be implemented. The ideal program prevents the entry of vermin and eliminates their harborage in the facility. For animals in outdoor facilities, consideration should be given to eliminating or minimizing the potential risk associated with pests and predators”.

Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 2010, p. 23 “Programs should be instituted to control infestation of animal facilities by vermin (e.g. flies, mosquitoes, lice, mites, ticks, grubs, rodents, skunks, and pest birds such as starlings, pigeons, and sparrows)”

Scope

This guideline document applies to all NDSU animal facilities, and facility managers should refer to this document when establishing pest control programs and standard operating procedures at their facility. The pest control program should be designed to prevent, control, or eradicate pests in the animal facility.

Responsibilities

Facility Managers are responsible to assure an adequate pest control program in their facility that is consistent with this document. NDSU personnel manage and maintain the pest control program and are responsible for frequent monitoring of the control procedures to ensure that pests do not encounter undue pain or distress and, when necessary, are dispatched immediately using humane methods.

Procedure

1. Building design, construction and routine maintenance are the primary components to preventing potential pests and invasive species access into animal areas.
2. Facilities shall be kept free of clutter, unnecessary storage of equipment, and trash to prevent harboring pests. This includes but is not limited to:
   2.1. Daily removal of waste, discarded food and bedding to prevent fly and rodent feeding
   2.2. Keeping lids of trash receptacles closed to deter wild rodents, squirrels and raccoons.
   2.3. Where possible use mechanical and physical pest control measures to prevent pest access to the facility. Examples include:
       2.3.1. Store feed and bedding on pallets or shelves.
       2.3.2. Store open feed bags in sealed containers.
       2.3.3. Use a drain floor plate, flush floor drains and apply disinfectant to drains at least monthly to prevent pest access via the drainage system.
       2.3.4. Situate live traps near areas of concern such as feed/bedding storage, outdoor entrances.
       2.3.5. Maintain a regular cleaning, sanitation, and housekeeping schedule.

3. Animal units are required to develop pest control standard operating procedures specific to their needs. A regularly scheduled and documented program of control and monitoring should be implemented.

4. Facility managers must ensure the integrity of buildings and equipment as well as the safety of students and staff. When appropriate, the IACUC, AV and/or Safety Office must be consulted.

5. When possible nontoxic substances and live traps can be utilized.
   5.1. Trapping devices must be humane
   5.2. Live and lethal (e.g., snap) traps must be checked daily
   5.3. Live trapped animals must not be handled and should be quickly euthanized according to the current AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals.
   5.4. Euthanasia must be conducted on the day the animals is caught in a live trap.
   5.5. The carcass must be disposed of properly by placing in biohazard waste or incineration.

6. Use of commercial or regulated pesticides and aerosolized products requiring special applicators should be done in consultation with the NDSU Safety Office and should only be used when other preventive or control methods are unsuccessful.

7. When appropriate, consultation with outside resources such as state animal health, USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, and state game and fish agencies is recommended.

8. Facility managers or designees must be appropriately trained on pest control procedures and proper implementation of pest control method.