



CM SOP #108 – Pest Management

Original release date: 10/21/2016 Version: 5 Date last revised: 03/01/2026

I. Purpose & Scope

This SOP establishes standardized pest management practices within Comparative Medicine (CM) vivaria to protect research animals, personnel, and animal facility operations by preventing and controlling pest activity, including feral rodents and insects. The purpose is to reduce the risk of disease transmission, contamination, animal welfare impacts, and disruption of research through routine monitoring, timely reporting, and appropriate corrective actions. This SOP applies to all CM personnel working inside the vivaria and covers both routine interior monitoring (e.g., daily checks of live traps and sticky traps) and coordination with FAU Facilities Management/Physical Plant for exterior pest control services. All interior pesticide use or pest deterrents not specifically described in this SOP require prior veterinary approval.

II. Roles & Responsibilities

Comparative Medicine Staff

- Follow pest management procedures outlined in this SOP, including daily monitoring and documentation.
- Maintain awareness for signs of pest activity and report concerns promptly.
- Use appropriate PPE when handling traps or pests and report any injuries per *CM SOP 008*.
- Check live traps and sticky traps daily when deployed/posted.
- Report any rodent capture (feral or laboratory) immediately to the veterinary staff and notify the Vivarium Operations Manager (VOM).
- Ensure required logs and daily check sheets are completed accurately.

Research Staff, Students, Visitors

- Comply with facility biosecurity expectations and avoid actions that contribute to pest activity (e.g., food storage/consumption in vivarium spaces).
- Promptly report any pest sightings, evidence of pests (droppings, nesting material, gnaw marks), or concerns to CM staff or the VOM.
- Do not set, move, or remove traps or use pest deterrents/chemicals inside CM vivaria unless explicitly authorized by CM management and veterinary staff.
- Follow instructions for response to escaped rodents as directed by CM staff (see *CM SOP 212* when applicable).

CM Management

- Ensure facility compliance with this SOP and provide/coordinate training.
- Review FAU pest control program with Physical Plant at the beginning of each fiscal year.
- Coordinate additional pest control treatment through Physical Plant (work order or direct contact) as needed.
- Purchase and maintain interior pest control supplies (e.g., live traps, sticky traps).
- Coordinate response to pest activity reports and consult with veterinarians and/or pest professionals when needed.



CM Director and AV

- Verify competency and maintain required training documentation.
- Ensure pest management training needs are identified and supported.
- Provide oversight and resources for pest management within vivaria.
- Review the pest management program regularly with the FM.
- Initiate investigation and, if appropriate, testing of rodents caught in live traps to assess potential health risks to colonies.

III. General Notes & Definitions

Pest management in the vivaria is essential to protect animal health, personnel safety, and research integrity by preventing contamination and limiting exposure to zoonotic or facility pests. CM staff monitor interior traps daily and coordinate corrective actions with the Facilities Manager and veterinarians as needed. Only veterinary-approved pest control methods may be used inside the vivaria; any escaped rodent must be managed according to *CM SOP 212*.

Definitions

- **Pest:** Any unwanted animal or insect that may compromise animal health, biosecurity, facility sanitation, or research (e.g., feral rodents, insects).
- **Feral Rodent:** Wild mouse/rat entering the facility environment, considered a potential zoonotic and contamination risk.
- **Escaped Rodent:** A laboratory rodent that is loose outside its primary enclosure/approved containment (see *CM SOP 212: Escaped Rodent*).
- **Live Trap (Humane Trap):** Capture device used for rodents (including escaped laboratory rodents) that must be checked **daily** when deployed.
- **Infestation:** Evidence of repeated or widespread pest activity (e.g., multiple captures, droppings, nesting material, gnaw marks).
- **Interior Pest Management:** Pest monitoring and control actions conducted within vivarium spaces by CM staff (traps, monitoring, reporting).
- **Exterior Pest Management:** Pest control services provided by FAU Physical Plant/contracted pest control company outside building structures, including bait stations and routine inspections.

IV. Materials & Equipment

- **Live humane rodent traps** (interior use when needed, including escaped rodent response)
- **Daily Check Sheet** (*CM Form 003: Daily Animal Room Check Sheet*)
- **Live trap log sheets** (maintained when live traps are deployed)
- Permanent marker/pen for logs
- **PPE for trap handling**, including:
 - disposable gloves (minimum)
 - thick gloves and/or towel (for added protection when handling trapped rodents)
 - additional PPE as appropriate to area requirements
- Approved disinfectant and cleaning supplies
- Work order access/contact information for **Physical Plant pest control** (for additional exterior treatment requests)



V. Procedure

1. Exterior Pest Management (Building Exterior)

- a) Exterior pest management is provided through FAU Facilities Management/Physical Plant and the FAU-contracted pest control vendor.
 - b) Vendor services occur monthly and include:
 - i. inspection for pests around buildings,
 - ii. inspection of exterior rodent bait stations, and
 - iii. replacement of bait as needed.
 - c) If additional exterior treatment is required:
 - i. CM staff submit a Physical Plant work order (or contact Physical Plant directly),
 - ii. the vendor is expected to respond within 24 hours.
 - iii. Pest control will use pesticides judiciously to limit environmental impact while remaining effective.
-

2. Interior Pest Management (Vivarium Interior)

- a) CM staff are responsible for pest management within the vivarium interior.
 - b) Check all deployed interior traps daily,
 - c) Document completion of checks on *CM Form 003: Daily Animal Room Check Sheet*.
-

2.2 Live Trap Use and Monitoring

- a) Place live traps in vivarium hallways near exterior doors and/or in other identified risk areas as directed by CM management.
 - b) When a live trap is deployed:
 - i. place a live trap log in the area with the trap(s),
 - ii. complete the log daily each time the trap is checked.
 - c) If a rodent is found in a live trap:
 - i. notify veterinary staff immediately, and
 - ii. report to the Facilities Manager (FM).
 - iii. Veterinary staff will determine whether investigation and/or testing of rodents is required.
-

2.3 Reporting and Response

- a) Report the following immediately to the FM:
 - i. evidence of infestation,
 - ii. unusual trap findings,
 - iii. repeated captures,
 - iv. pest sightings or contamination concerns.
- b) Report animal capture to both the VOM and AV (for potential colony health impact review/testing).
 - i. Any corrective actions (add'l trapping, pest professional consultation, increased monitoring, sanitation measures) will be coordinated by the VOM and/or AV.

VI. Health & Safety

All wild rodents and pests must be treated as potential sources of zoonotic disease and contamination. Personnel must wear appropriate PPE (minimum gloves) when checking or



handling traps, and thick gloves and/or a towel should be used when handling trapped rodents due to bite/scratch risk. Hands must be washed after glove removal and any injuries must be reported per *CM SOP 008*. Only veterinarian-approved pest control methods may be used inside the vivaria to protect animal health and avoid chemical risks.

VII. References & Attachments

- The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals (National Research Council, 1997)
- *CM SOP 008: Reporting Accidents, Injuries, and Illnesses*
- *CM SOP 212: Escaped Rodent*
- Live humane rodent trap product example/images (see images below)
- *CM Form 003: Daily Animal Room Check Sheet*
- Live Trap Log template (required when live traps are deployed)

VIII. Revision History

Revision Date	Revision Number	Summary of Changes
12/16/2019	108.2	Minor condensing
02/08/2021	108.3	Changed exterior care to FAU-contracted company. Changed interior care and supplies to CM staff. Added individual logs for live traps. Moved sticky traps to walls.
01/11/2024	108.4	Minor updates
03/01/2026	108.5	Reformatted, ensured ADA compliance, removed references to sticky traps

Approved by: Nicole Compo, DVM, DVSc, DAACLAM, Attending Veterinarian



Figure 1: Example permanently deployed live trap

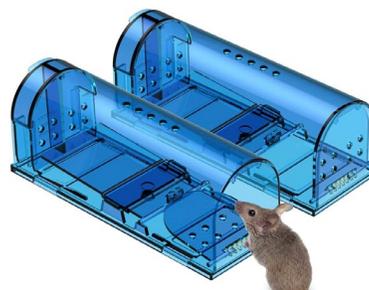


Figure 2: Example live trap for escapees, which can be baited