
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: Transfer of NHP's To and From Exercise pens in Holding Rooms 38 and 41, Non Human Primate Module (NHPM) West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario

SOP NO.: WV 603-01

REVISION: 01

EFF. DATE: DRAFT

SUPERSEDES:

APPROVALS

Prepared by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To detail the methods to safely transfer baboons or cynomolgous primates into and out of exercise pens located in NHPM rooms 38 and 41 in the Non-Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario.

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 This SOP applies to all full time approved animal care and research technicians in the Non-Human Primate Module (NHPM) in the West Valley Building, UWO.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 ACVS and RESEARCH Staff
 - 3.1.1 Animal Care and research technicians are all required to follow instructions in section 4

4.0 PROCEDURE

4.1 Purpose of Exercise Pens

- 4.1.1 Exercise pen is to provide non human primates with an enriched activity periods that encourage foraging and more natural behaviours outside of the home cage . The transfer process is one that must be performed by the full time and approved Animal Care or Research technicians.
 - 4.1.2 There are 4 exercise pens in the NHPM, 2 located in holding room 38, and 2 in holding room 41.
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- 4.1.3 Exercise pens are "deep" bedded with straw to encourage foraging, and contain climbing perches and trapeze swing for choice of activity and exercise for primates. Temporary items such as toys and foraging material will also be supplied at all times
 - 4.1.4 Transfer of NHPs into and out of exercise pens is done through the specially designed transfer ports at the front of each exercise pen. The transfer ports are designed to match exactly with the home caging used for both baboons (Suburban Surgical and LGL Cages) and macaque primates (Primate Products Cages).
 - 4.1.5 Any transfer of Non Human Primates takes time, care and patience, with personnel and primate safety of the process emphasized at all times. Quiet encouragement the most effective means to encourage movement between cages, and once trained in this manner there will be no resistance to transfer in or out of the exercise pens by primates.
 - 4.1.6 Treats of an apple or banana are used to positively reinforce transfers.
- 4.2 **Transfer of Baboons To and From Exercise Pens**
- 4.2.1 Baboons are housed in Suburban Surgical and LGL home cages and may be transferred directly from these cages to the exercise pens through the transfer ports.
 - 4.2.2 A treat may be placed inside the pen below the transfer port to encourage transfer from the cage into the exercise pen. Plain cereal grains are located in the straw/shavings on the exercise pen for foraging.
 - 4.2.3 Animals that refuse to enter the cage from the pen should be left in the pen overnight. Food or treats should not be provided while the animal is still in the pen, otherwise it will be difficult to encourage the Baboon to move to home cage from the exercise pen the next morning.
 - 4.2.4 In the event that a Baboon still refuses to enter the home cage after an overnight stay, then AC staff should contact the facility veterinarian for consultation on how to proceed.
 - 4.2.5 Transfer Process
 - 4.2.5.1 Suburban Surgical and LGL cages are identical, and hook up to the exercise pen in the same manner. Transfer is through the side panel
 - 4.2.5.2 Cages must be secured and padlocked to the exercise pen by means of a specially designed locking device to the top of the home cage
 - 4.2.5.3 The transfer panel of the exercise panel is the front bottom panel, one for each of the two sides of the exercise pen
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SUPERSEDES:

4.2.5.4 Opening of the exercise pen door is done only after double checking the cage is secured and padlocked, which is then followed by sliding open the side panel of the home cage just enough to allow the baboon through

4.2.5.5 Once the baboon is through shut the exercise pen transfer port and padlock in place.

4.2.5.6 Remove the security device for the home cage to the exercise pen, and remove

4.3 Transfer of Cynomolgous To and From Exercise Pens

4.3.1 Cynomolgous macaques are housed in Primate Product cages. Under normal circumstances their exercise is through application of space between interconnected apartment modules (lateral or vertical and any combination thereof)

4.3.2 Cynomolgous may be paired in both home cages and exercise pens if they have been successfully matched by the head animal care technician

4.3.3 Transfer from the exercise pens between from Primate Product caging and LOWER SIDE panel on either side of the front portion of the exercise pens.

4.3.4 Animals that refuse to enter the cage from the pen should be left in the pen overnight. Food or treats should not be provided while the animal is still in the pen, otherwise it will be difficult to encourage the cynomolgous to move to home cage from the exercise pen the next morning.

4.3.5 In the event that a cynomolgous still refuses to enter the home cage after an overnight stay, then AC staff should contact the facility veterinarian for consultation on how to proceed.

4.3.6 Transfer Process

4.3.6.1 Primate Product cages hook up to the exercise pen in the same manner. Transfer is through the back side panel in the LOWER apartment module

4.3.6.2 Cages must be secured and padlocked to the exercise pen by means of a specially designed locking device to the top of the home cage

4.3.6.3 The transfer panel of the exercise panel is the SIDE BOTTOM panel, one for each of the two sides of the exercise pen

4.3.6.4 Opening of the exercise pen door is done only after double checking the cage is secured and padlocked, which is then followed by sliding open the side panel of the home cage just enough to allow the cynomolgous access.

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SUPERSEDES:

4.3.6.5 Once the cynomologous is through shut the exercise pen transfer port and padlock in place.

4.3.6.6 Remove the security device to the home cage from the exercise pen, and remove the home cage.

5.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 5.1 Nonhuman primates (NHP's) present hazards related to naturally occurring zoonotic organisms which may be transmitted to people. People also transmit zoonotic agents to NHP's. NHP's also present unique hazards due to their intelligence, manual dexterity, strength and speed . Please refer to SOP WV611-02 “ *Safety and Animal Handling Procedures for NonHuman Primates (NHP's) Non Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, UWO*
- 5.2 Direct contact with NHP's requires in depth training on risks and standard operating procedures, participation in a surveillance health program as well as documented proof of training and security clearance monitored by the facility manager. Please refer to SOP WV169 “ *Non Human Primate Approval Policy, West Valley Building, UWO.*
- 5.3 All approved personnel must be enrolled, approved and monitored in the animal handlers medical surveillance program through workplace health, UWO
- 5.4 NHP housing facilities at West Valley , UWO are designed and operated at the standards required by Health Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency

6.0 REVISION HISTORY

Revision	Reason(s) for Revision	Initiated by

7.0 REFERENCES / ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

7.1

8.0 ATTACHMENTS

8.1