

CSU LAR Rabbit Care Description

Husbandry

A. Animals:

Animals may be referred to in study documentation by either their common name, species, or study designated animal number.

- Common Name: Rabbit
- Species: New Zealand White
- Health Status: Healthy, not previously used in a study
- Screening: Rabbits will be screened via a physical examination.

B. Source:

Rabbits are purchased from an approved commercial vendor such as Western Oregon Rabbit Company

C. Quarantine:

Upon the arrival of rabbits to CSU LAR, no quarantine is necessary since these are commercially raised animals with a defined clean health status. Any abnormalities noted at the entry physical examination will be reported to the vendor, Attending Veterinarian, and the Study Director so that appropriate actions such as replacement or treatment, can occur.

D. Husbandry and Identification:

Upon the arrival of rabbits to the CSU Laboratory Animal Resources Department, they are housed individually, or in groups based on compatibility, in commercial caging system (Allentown Mfg.) which meet or exceed USDA AWA and OLAW specifications. Animals are checked daily, provided *ad libitum* commercial rabbit chow and water, regular loose forage, and daily enrichment devices. Cage pan liners are changed daily and full change out occurs every two weeks. Rabbits are identified by individual cage card numbers, and sometimes will have a permanent identification such as ear tag or ear tattoo placed, based on study needs.

E. Diet:

Rabbits are fed a commercial laboratory rabbit chow (Teklad Global) daily, and receive loose timothy/alfalfa hay or cubes 3-4 times per week.

F. Water:

Rabbits are provided tap water *ad libitum*. No contaminants are expected as this is a potable drinking water supplied by the city.

G. Fasting:

Feed will be withheld 12 hours prior to surgery. Water will not be withheld prior to surgery. Hay will be offered following complete anesthetic recovery.

H. Body Weights:

Individual body weights will be recorded prior to the procedure and at the time of euthanasia. Rabbit's weights will be used to calculate the amount of drugs to administer during anesthesia and to monitor their health through weight changes throughout the duration of the study.

I. Clinical Observations:

Clinical observations will be performed per CSU LAR Standard Operating Procedures. Clinical observations will include but are not limited to changes in: the skin and hair, eyes and mucous membranes, respiratory system, circulatory system, central nervous system, salivation, diarrhea, or lethargy. Rabbits are observed daily during routine interactions (i.e. feeding, cage change). Only abnormal findings will be noted in the individual record during the study. Clinical observations made on rabbits shall not be open ended or have gaps during the course of the study.

Any rabbit found dead will be reported to LAR veterinarians and refrigerated and necropsied as soon as possible.

Any rabbit, during the course of the study, that is determined to be no longer suitable for study, at the discretion of the facility Veterinarian in consultation with the Study Director will be removed from the study.