

# Husbandry Procedures for Chickens and Rabbits Requiring Containment Housing

1. Contact the ULAM husbandry supervisor for the animal facility to obtain the appropriate Room Entry Sign. See **Appendix O** in the [Animals Administered a Hazardous Substance Requiring Containment SOP](#) for ULAM husbandry supervisor contact information.
  - a. ULAM husbandry supervisors will find entry procedure signs [here](#) (requires login).
2. Don containment PPE outside of the housing room. This includes:
  - a. Disposable waterproof plastic gown
  - b. Shoe covers
  - c. Hair bonnet
  - d. N95 respirator when changing liners/cageboard/creating aerosols/spraying.
  - e. Gloves (latex or nitrile)
  - f. Protective safety glasses, goggles, or face shield. Prescription glasses cannot be used in place of the safety glasses (goggles must be placed over prescription glasses).
    - i. Note: if spraying, sealed eye protection AND a face shield are required.
  - g. Note: Highest level of required PPE must be followed by all personnel working in the housing room.
3. House animals in standard caging.
  - a. Follow health check and feeding procedures outlined in the [Chicken Husbandry SOP](#) and [Rabbit Husbandry SOP](#).
  - b. Change gloves and gown between different investigators and between different substances for the same investigator.
  - c. Handle naïve animals before hazardous animals.
  - d. House rabbits singly unless otherwise determined by faculty veterinarian and the Principal Investigator. Follow procedures in [Identifying Single Housed Animals SOP](#).
  - e. House chickens in groups or singly as determined by the nature of the study.
4. Follow transportation guidelines outlined in the [Animals Administered a Hazardous Substance Requiring Containment SOP](#).
5. Collect solid waste in a lined, fiber drum for HazMat disposal. Fiber drum needs to be appropriately labeled for the hazard it contains (infectious or chemical). See **Standard Husbandry and Substance Administration Practices section 12** in the [Animals Administered a Hazardous Substance Requiring Containment SOP](#).
  - a. This includes soiled liners, soiled cageboard, any uneaten food (including food containing a chemical or infectious hazard), and any non-reusable enrichment items.
  - b. Remove liners and cageboard within the containment housing room before racks are taken to cagewash.
  - c. Sweep and mop floor with bleach water (2 cups to 2-gallons water) after each liner change.
6. Collect unconsumed water in a container for decontamination.
  - a. For water containing a chemical substance:
    - i. See **Standard Husbandry and Substance Administration Practices section 12.c.vii** in the [Animals Administered a Hazardous Substance Requiring Containment SOP](#).
  - b. For water from infectious hazard cages, including water containing the infectious substance:
    - i. Add one cup of bleach to all of the unconsumed water in the container. Allow to sit for 20 minutes prior to dumping the liquid down the drain.
7. Pretreat reusable enrichment items, watering devices, and feed bowls from infectious hazard cages with 10% bleach water or Clidox before taking to cagewash.
  - a. Cover items with a plastic bag.
  - b. Place a biohazard sticker on the plastic bag when transporting through the halls.
8. Cover and take reusable enrichment items, watering devices, and feed bowls from chemical hazard cages directly to cagewash, no pretreatment or labeling required.
9. Follow cage changing procedures as outlined in the [Chicken Husbandry SOP](#) and [Rabbit Husbandry SOP](#) except liners and cageboard must be removed inside the containment housing room.
  - a. Cover soiled brooder rack with a large bag.
  - b. Place a sticker appropriate for the hazard administered on all sides of the bag.
  - c. Move rack directly to cagewash for immediate washing.
10. Doff PPE inside the housing room and collect in a lined fiber drum for HazMat disposal.
11. Refer to [Procedures for Working in Cage Wash Facilities](#) for information on processing caging from containment housing rooms.
12. Label cage cards as described in **Standard Husbandry and Substance Administration Practices section 3** in the [Animals Administered a Hazardous Substance Requiring Containment SOP](#).
  - a. Thoroughly wet cage cards with an EPA approved disinfectant (e.g. Clidox, bleach water, SaniCloths) and allow to dry prior to returning to the ULAM barcode team for deactivation.

- b. Thoroughly wet any acetates used on cages with an EPA approved disinfectant (e.g. Clidox, bleach water, SaniCloths) and allow to air dry prior to returning to the supply box for the housing room.
13. Fill in the required information on the [Containment Housing Service Charge Tracking Form](#) found on the room clipboard for species that do not have a biocontainment per diem. Information about how these charges are calculated can be found on the [Rates page of the ACU Program website](#).