



# VCU

Environmental Health  
and Safety

Safety and Risk Management

## Guidelines for SOP for Out Of Vivarium (OOV) Cage Dumping

1. Justify why in-room cage/operant box tray dumping is required.
2. Verify there is no practical access to engineering controls for cage dumping, i.e. biosafety cabinet, vivarium dirty cage dumping station. Use of chemical fume hood is allowed **only for bedding from source animals not exposed to any chemical/biological/rDNA hazards**.
3. Indicate why the use of replacement bedding material with lower potential for allergen release (such as bench paper/chux pads) is not feasible.
4. Indicate whether IBC-registered hazards (per IBC hazard-approval letter for IACUC protocol) are involved.
5. Indicate work methods/measures taken to reduce exposure potential; i.e. misting of bedding with MB10 (or other approved disinfectant) prior to dumping†, placement of operant box tray completely within the bag\*\* during dumping, wearing full PPE\* during procedure (gown, gloves, hair & shoe covers, masks - use of an N-95 respirator is strongly recommended\*\*\*), hands-on training from PI, etc.

†Soiled bedding for ABSL-1 biological hazards only

\*DAR will **not** provide PPE for OOV cage dumping, but will supply vendor information for PI to receive VCU/DAR discount.

\*\* Soiled bedding from source animals which have not been exposed to reportable chemical, biological or rDNA hazards may be dumped into a minimum 2mm thick, construction-grade plastic bag (not provided by DAR) for disposal through DAR. Soiled bedding from source animals exposed to chemical or ABSL-1 biological/rDNA hazards must be dumped into a red biohazard bag for disposal through DAR. Dumping of soiled bedding from source animals exposed to ABSL-2 (or greater) biological/rDNA hazards will not be permitted in OOV facilities under any circumstances.

\*\*\* Use of N-95 respirators requires participation in the university Respirator Protection Program which includes respirator medical evaluation from Employee/Student Health and fit-testing/training for N-95 use by Safety and Risk Management. Documentation and annual fit-testing is also required.