PURPOSE & Description

The purpose of this SOP is to delineate the minimum standards for the use of doxycycline when administered to rodents orally, either by gavage, drinking water, or diet. Doxycycline is a synthetic tetracycline antibiotic derivative that functions by inhibiting bacterial protein synthesis.

Scope

This SOP applies to the Principal Investigator (PI) and their laboratory staff.

Responsibilities

PIs are responsible for training of their laboratory staff and continued participation in following safety guidelines.

PI and laboratory staff are responsible for following the [Policy on Handling Animals Exposed to Hazardous Chemicals](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Policy-on-Handling-Animals-Exposed-to-Hazardous-Chemicals.pdf).

PI or laboratory staff are responsible for contacting and meeting with ACS Facility Manager prior to delivery of doxycycline diet, as described in [Special Care by Principal Investigator - Rodent Policy](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Special-Care-by-Principal-Investigator-Rodent-Policy.pdf) or [Special Services Policy](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Special-Services-Policy.pdf).

Definitions

* **Clear time –** The period of time required to allow for excretion of a hazardous chemical before standard handling practices can be used.

Hazard Identification & Control Measures

**Potential Hazards**

* **Physical Hazards**
  + Dermal (from splashes)
* **Chemical Hazards** 
  + Toxicant/Toxic Agent
  + Irritant (skin, eye, respiratory)

**Engineering Controls / Administrative Controls**

* Powdered doxycycline requires the use of engineering control such as a Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) or Chemical Fume Hood (CFH) for agent preparation.
* Prepared doxycycline solution requires the use of an Animal Transfer Station (ATS) or higher engineering control such as a BSC or CFH for agent administration and cage manipulation.
* Rodents should be appropriately restrained prior to administration via gavage, as described in the approved Animal Use Protocol (AUP).
* Gloves should be changed frequently, at a minimum when contaminated with doxycycline or torn, and before handling animals in other experimental groups.
* Hands and arms should be washed with soap and water upon completion of work.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

* Appropriate lab attire including skin protection, closed shoes, and eye protection.
* Long-sleeve gown or long-sleeve dedicated lab coat
* Gloves
* If doxycycline powder is being used within the animal facility, N95 respirator and safety goggles are required if BSC or CFH are not available.
  + Respirator use requires employee participation in the Respiratory Protection Program (See [UF EHS Respirator Protection Policy](https://www.ehs.ufl.edu/departments/occupational-safety-risk/industrial-hygiene-occupational-safety/respirator-protection-policy/)).

Procedure

* Prior to working with chemical hazards in animals, all work must be described in an approved AUP.
* Contact the ACS facility manager where the rodents are housed at least 48 hours prior to use of the chemical hazard.

Special Handling and Storage Requirements

* The doxycycline clear time is 72 hours after the last administration. Doxycycline is excreted in the feces and urine of animals after administration, consequently, the procedures inthis SOP must be followed when handling animals and bedding for 72 hours after the final doxycycline administration.
* Doxycycline storage and transport containers should be shatter-resistant, rigid, shock-resistant, leak-proof, and made of a non-reactive material which can be easily cleaned and decontaminated in the event of a leak.
* Personal protective equipment as described above must be worn when handling doxycycline, in addition to any PPE requirements of the animal room. Hands and arms should be washed with soap and water after removing PPE.
* An approved solution must be used for decontamination of equipment and areas exposed to doxycycline (e.g. Peroxigard).

Waste Disposal Procedures

* Contaminated and/or potentially contaminated laboratory PPE and laboratory consumables are disposed of as Non-Regulated Hazardous Waste.
* Contaminated and/or potentially contaminated bedding and PPE originating within the animal facility are disposed of as Non-Regulated Waste for Incineration according to the [Policy on Handling Animals Exposed to Hazardous Chemicals](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Policy-on-Handling-Animals-Exposed-to-Hazardous-Chemicals.pdf).
* Rodents euthanized or found dead prior to the clear time are identified, labeled, and disposed of according to the [Policy on Handling Animals Exposed to Hazardous Chemicals](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Policy-on-Handling-Animals-Exposed-to-Hazardous-Chemicals.pdf).
* Waste doxycycline water from soiled water bottles will be poured into the soiled cage bottom and processed according to [Policy on Handling Animals Exposed to Hazardous Chemicals](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Policy-on-Handling-Animals-Exposed-to-Hazardous-Chemicals.pdf).

Emergency Response (Spill & Accident Procedures)

**Spills**

* If a small spill occurs, clean up with an approved solution (e.g. Peroxigard). Collect spilled material and clean up material into appropriately labeled, nonmetallic waste container.
* For large spills, call EH&S Chemical and Radioactive Waste Disposal group at 352-392-8400 for clean-up assistance.
  + See [UF EHS Spill Response](https://www.ehs.ufl.edu/departments/research-safety-services/hazardous-waste-management/spill-response/#:~:text=Call%20EH&S%20Chemical%20and%20Radioactive%20Waste) for additional information.

**If an emergency occurs outside of normal work hours, contact the University Police Department at 352-392-1111 or call 911.**

**Emergency Contact Numbers:**

* Principal Investigator: xxx-xxx-xxxx
* Lab Manager: xxx-xxx-xxxx
* Poison Control Center: 800-222-1222
* Emergency: 911
* EH&S: 352-392-1591

**Physical Address on Campus:**

[Add your lab’s address here.]

References

* [Policy on Handling Animals Exposed to Hazardous Chemicals](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Policy-on-Handling-Animals-Exposed-to-Hazardous-Chemicals.pdf)
* [UF EHS Spill Response](https://www.ehs.ufl.edu/departments/research-safety-services/hazardous-waste-management/spill-response/#:~:text=Call%20EH&S%20Chemical%20and%20Radioactive%20Waste)
* [Special Care by Principal Investigator - Rodent Policy](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Special-Care-by-Principal-Investigator-Rodent-Policy.pdf)
* [Special Services Policy](https://iacuc.ufl.edu/secure/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Special-Services-Policy.pdf)
* [UF EHS Respirator Protection Policy](https://www.ehs.ufl.edu/departments/occupational-safety-risk/industrial-hygiene-occupational-safety/respirator-protection-policy/)

Documents and attachments

List applicable forms and attachments here.