



THE HEALTH MONITORING OF RODENTS AND THE CAGE-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IN MODERN ANIMAL FACILITIES

Welcome and introduction to the course

Discussion on the experience and interests of the participants

Why should be worried about health monitoring?

Microbiological agents and real risks

FELASA Guidelines

Laboratory techniques for health monitoring investigation

- Reliability
- Alternative methods
- New techniques
- Interpretation of results and their management at laboratory level
- Monitoring of biological specimens to be used for scientific research

New technical answers to the challenging health monitoring in IVCs

IVCs and their impact on prevalence of infection

IVCs and their impact on HM

Health monitoring programmes in facilities equipped with different caging systems

- Proposed approach for open cages facilities
- Peculiar needs of isolator maintained rodent colonies
- Overview of the health monitoring system at the Research Centre
- Sentinel cage distribution, time table, sentinel replacement, rotation
- Dirty bedding system in use at the Research Centre
- Additional tests

Infection detected and confirmed: disaster plan

Incoming animals

- Health certificate evaluation of incoming rodents
- Destination of the animals - quarantine procedures
- Alternative strategies
 - Importation of embryos
 - Rederivation by embryo-transfer
- What to do: Pros and cons of the different options
- The experience of the Research Centre



Microbiological monitoring

- Microbiological monitoring of food & bedding
- Microbiological monitoring of water: qualitative and quantitative aspects.
- Surface microbiological tests, meaning and applicability
- Air microbiological evaluation and alternative tests
- Practical examples

Monitoring of physical parameters

- Temperature and RH monitoring, meaning, frequency, equipment, target
- Alarms and their interpretation

IVCs microenvironment: NH_3 , CO_2 , O_2 , temperature and RH

Discussion on other experiences

Positive findings: what to do