

Escaped Rodent SOP- AVS Staff

First Issue: 7/5/11, Revised: 7/21/11, 1/8/15, 7/29/15, 11/7/16, 11/15/17, 10/17/18
Approved by IACUC: 10/20/11 Biosafety: 7/29/15

Minimum PPE: Gloves, Gowns, Booties. Additional PPE is protocol dependent.

Environmental Risk Response From Theft, Loss or Release of a Rodent

1. If the escape occurs within a Biosafety Cabinet, immediately close the sash and gather capture materials. Try to safely capture the rodent by placing a transparent container over it and slide a thin piece of hard plastic (ie: a clipboard) under the container. Avoid attempting to capture the rodent with your hands; escaped rodents may be more aggressive and bite or scratch in these situations. Place captured rodent into a separate cage, secure, and label. Do not place the rodent into its original cage if other mice are in that cage. Notify the Principal Investigator (PI) and Facility Supervisor of the recaptured rodent. Be cautious of open vial of biological materials.
2. If the rodent is outside the Biosafety Cabinet and has not been infected with a biological material or contaminated with a chemical/radiation and does not fall under the permit conditions of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture or the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules and the rodent cannot be captured, place a sign on the door entry stating "CAUTION ESCAPED MOUSE or RAT in ROOM – Be very cautious when entering and exiting the room, date, and contact information".
3. Immediately capture the rodent as safely described above. Place captured rodent into a separate cage, secure, and label. Do not place the rodent into its original cage if other mice are in that cage. Notify the Operations Supervisor and the PI. The PI is given the opportunity to look at the mouse and decide to keep or euthanize it.
4. If the rodent cannot be captured immediately, set AVS approved live traps and check at least daily until the rodent is captured. Once rodent is captured, notify the AVS Program Manager, Operations Supervisor, and PI. Place the mouse in the Biosafety cabinet in Kakaako room 129 / Manoa room 304H. Euthanasia is recommended for mice that may have had contact with spaces of unknown health status. If the PI wishes to keep the animal, it must be quarantined and tested prior to housing in the regular colony again.

Environmental Risk Response From Theft, Loss or Release of a Rodent Infected with Biological Safety Level-2 Pathogen

5. If the rodent is infected with a biological materials, is dosed with a chemical/radiation or falls under the permit conditions of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture or the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules, do not leave the room until the rodent is captured using aforementioned methods. All biological, chemical, or radioactive material must be closed and secured.
 - a. If the rodent is infected with a biological material or is contaminated with a chemical/radiation when it escapes and is recaptured, use the appropriate decontamination procedures to decontaminate all areas the rodent has had contact outside of its cage; inside the biosafety cabinet (BSC) or outside the BSC. Notify the Biosafety Officer (biohazards) or Environmental Health and Safety (chemical hazards), Radiation Safety Officer, Operations Supervisor, AVS Program Manager, Public Safety and PI immediately. Place a sign on door entry, "DO NOT ENTER SPILL CLEAN UP IN PROGRESS", date and sign, until it is deemed safe to re-enter.

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- b. If the rodent falls under the permit conditions of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and it escapes the facility or cannot be captured, posing a threat to the environment, the AVS Program Manager or designee must contact the following entities within two business days:

1. Plant Quarantine Branch in the event of any theft, accidental release, exposure or disease outbreaks involving the microorganisms or inoculated mice.

Microorganism Specialist
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 832-0589
Fax: (808) 832-0584

Land Vertebrate Specialist
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 832-0579
Fax: (808) 832-0584

2. UH Research Compliance Office
Biosafety Officer
1960 East West Road
Biomedical Sciences Building, T110
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-956-3197
email: olipares@hawaii.edu

- c. If the escaped rodent falls under the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA or synthetic nucleic molecules in the event of any theft, accidental release, exposure or disease outbreaks involving the microorganisms or inoculated mice, the AVS Program Manager or designee will immediately contact the UH Biosafety Officer noted under above in item b.2.

6. If rodent falls under items a, b or c, the AVS Program Manager or designee will report the incident to the UH Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the UH Regulatory Compliance Officer.

- a. UH IACUC Chairman
808-478-1902
email: himenesdvm@aol.com
- b. Regulatory Compliance Officer
808-956-4446
email: nmagno@hawaii.edu

*If there is any potential exposure as a result of the incident, follow all procedures for exposure response, reporting and follow up.