

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CENTER FOR COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**

SOP#: 250

Approved _____ **Date** _____
Attending Veterinarian

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TITLE: **Microbial Monitoring**

SCOPE: Veterinarian Technicians

RESPONSIBILITY: Area Supervisors, Veterinarian Staff, and Technicians

PURPOSE: To determine the efficacy of the sanitation procedures for animal rooms, corridors and equipment using Rodac sampling plate.

I. PROCEDURES:

A. Surfaces must be sampled within 24 hours of sanitation procedures, preferably as soon as they are dry.

1. The edge of the Rodac™ plate is held between the thumb and middle finger with the index finger applied to the middle of the dish bottom.
2. The plate cover is removed and the agar surface of the plate applied to the sampling site, exerting mild pressure. If the plate moves sideways, smearing will result and the plate should be discarded.
3. The plate cover is then replaced. Using a permanent marker, mark the plate with: date, site tested, and initials of sampler. The cover is then taped to the plate.

B. Incubate the plate for 48-72 hours at 35-37°C.

1. Following incubation, count the 16cm² grid for bacterial and fungal colonies (Total number = "colony count").
2. Use the following guidelines for numbers of colony forming units (CFU) to evaluate the results in accordance with the sanitation levels achieved:

Colony count per plate	Results
<10	good
10-20	fair
>20	poor
TNTC	very poor

C. Frequency of monitoring:

1. Selected animal rooms, corridors and equipment should be evaluated at least monthly.
2. Suggested sampling sites: inside corner of cage or room for animals on contact bedding.

D. Actions to remedy poor or very poor results

1. Make certain your dilution of sanitizing agent is correct
2. Use the sanitizing mop water to clean a smaller area before discarding and making fresh sanitizing solution
3. Allow a longer contact time for the sanitizing mop water before rinsing the area with clean mop water
4. Use a different type of sanitizing agent in the mop water.