

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

SOP#: 501.6

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Wildlife-derived Avian Husbandry and Health Surveillance</b>
<b>SCOPE:</b>	Animal Care Personnel
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Facility Manager, Technical Staff, Veterinary Staff
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To Outline the Proper Procedures for Receiving, Physical Examination, Evaluating Health Status, Health Surveillance, Handling, Care, and Husbandry Practices Related to Wildlife-derived Avian Species

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**I. PURPOSE**

1. To ensure the highest quality of animal health and preclude the development of spontaneous diseases or disorders, which could compromise the integrity of studies and the interpretation of results
2. To ensure personnel handling wild-caught avian species perform their duties in a manner that complies with all current governing laws, regulations, and guidelines
3. To reduce the risk of exposure of research and animal care staff, and of intramural bird colonies to unidentified infectious agents that may be present in wild birds derived from natural settings

**II. RESPONSIBILITY**

1. The Veterinarians oversee all aspects of animal health and are assisted by all program staff.
2. Principal Investigators and Comparative Medicine personnel are responsible for the husbandry, care, and oversight of all wildlife-derived avian species unless an exception is approved by the Director or Associate Director of Comparative Medicine.
3. Facility Managers ensure implementation of all procedures, that appropriate personnel protective equipment is available, and that animal housing rooms are clearly label as "Containment" and specific safety practices implemented.

**III. PROCEDURES**

**1. Receipt**

- a. To ensure sufficient containment housing is available, and appropriate caging, supplies, and equipment are prepared and available in advance of the arrival of wild birds derived from natural settings, the PI or delegated research personnel must inform Comparative Medicine management in advance of all anticipated wild bird capture date(s) and the subsequent dates of wild bird arrival to containment housing rooms within Comparative Medicine managed animal facilities.
- b. Individual cage tags are prepared for each cage and should include the following information:



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- c. Racks and cages are changed out every other week, unless excessive soiling occurs. In such cases, staff will contact PI, who will move birds to new cages to free up soiled caging for cleaning. Rack and cage changes will be noted on the **Room Status Sheet**. Animal will maintain its relative position on the new rack.
- d. Only one animal and its cage card will be moved at one time.
- e. Cages will be moved to the new rack so that they retain the exact same cage