

## FLSC Standard Operating Procedure for Managing Rodent Ulcerative Dermatitis

### Purpose

Mice, especially those on a B6 background, are prone to developing a severe idiopathic ulcerative dermatitis. The condition is chronic and can be debilitating. The lesions are progressive, causing scratching that leads to excoriation of the affected areas, most notably on the shoulders, head, and ventral neck. Many treatment regimens are available to accommodate those studies where antibiotics or anti-inflammatory drugs would interfere with results. The following procedures are designed to provide relief and minimize discomfort in affected mice. To this end, veterinary evaluation will provide guidance to researchers in determining humane endpoints for affected mice.

### Procedure

1. Mice with dermatitis will be identified by animal care staff and the location and size of the lesion noted. A pink tag on a Vet Care Card will be used to alert the veterinary staff.
2. Mice with dermatitis will be identified with a Yellow (Skin Problem) Vet Care Card tab by the veterinary staff after initial examination.
3. Mice will be examined during weekly rounds and one or more of the following treatment options initiated:
  - a. Trim toenails.
  - b. Apply triple antibiotic ointment daily for 3 days then twice weekly.
  - c. Apply Vetericyn VF® spray once daily.
  - d. Apply Derma Aid® cream once daily.
  - e. Apply Triple Antibiotic ophthalmic drops once daily.
  - f. Remove ear tag if scratching head or ears.
  - g. Place on Alpha-dri® bedding.
  - h. Segregate from cage mates if barbering is occurring.
  - i. Apply topical lidocaine gel daily or twice weekly.
  - j. Treatments as deemed necessary by the veterinarian.
4. Animal care staff will provide directed treatments and record treatments on the Vet Care Card.
5. Mice noted to have open lesions that exceed 10 millimeters in diameter, or which have scarring that interferes with normal movement or posture will be called to the immediate attention of the veterinary staff or the veterinarian. The investigator will be notified and the animal will be euthanized.
6. Lesions on the head or face that involve the eye(s) are of special concern. All ocular involvement must be noted and the veterinary staff notified. Mice with conjunctivitis will be treated with an ophthalmic antibiotic. Should the condition fail to respond to treatment, the investigator will be notified and the animal will be euthanized.
7. Lesions that are the full thickness of the skin and expose the underlying muscle or blood vessels must be called to the immediate attention of the veterinary staff. The investigator will be notified and affected animals, without regard to the diameter of the lesion, will be euthanized.