**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
**South Texas Veterans Health Care System**
**San Antonio, Texas 78229-4404**

**Research Service Policy Memorandum 16-08**

**February 1, 2016**

**RESEARCH STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)**
**ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM**
**Vermin Control Program**

1. **PURPOSE**: To establish policy and procedures for maintaining a vermin control program within the Veterinary Medical Unit.

2. **POLICY**: In compliance with the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" (NIH No. 85-23), a vermin control program has been established in cooperation with Environmental Management Service' contract Pest Control.

3. **ACTION:** An integrated pest management plan has been developed that provides a full service pest control program for Audie Murphy hospital. This includes daily service at Audie Murphy. Services include treatment and prevention of any insect, invertebrate, arachnid, rodent, mammal, bird, or snake that causes an economic loss, or presents a hazard. These pests include mice, rats, squirrels, gophers, birds, bats, ants, bees, snakes, mosquitoes, gnats, beetles, weeds, termites, cockroaches, wasps, spiders and other crawling and flying insects within and around the facilities. This list is not all inclusive and shall not be considered to be a complete list of the pests the contractor shall be responsible to control. Certain non-animal housing areas within the Veterinary Medical Unit (VMU) have been targeted for monthly pesticide application. Non-animal areas or rooms include cage wash, treatment, restrooms, necropsy, and VMU office. Approved compounds for pest control shall be:

a. Boric acid

b. Disodium octoborate tetrahydrate

c. Silica gels

d. Diatomaceous earth

e. For crack and crevice treatment only – microbe-based insecticides, pesticides made with essential oils (not including synthetic pyrethroids) without toxic synergists, and materials for which the inert ingredients are non-toxic and disclosed.

f. When a pest problem is identified baits and traps shall be the first line of defense. Traps for both insects and rodents should be carefully and strategically placed and monitored. When necessary, a pesticide product specific to the species being eliminated shall be used.

**4. REFERENCES:** None

**5. RESPONSIBILITY:** ACOS for Research and Development

**6. RECISSIONS:** Research Service Memorandum, November 16, 2012

**7. RECERTIFICATION:** January 2021

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