

Ridglan-Standard Operating Procedure	ISSUE: 01, Revision: 07
Socialization	Implementation Date: 3/1/04
RDG-SOP-PRD-200-18	Page 1 of 5 Rev: 15Dec23

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to provide a method for conditioning animals to allow humans to touch and restrain them to accomplish laboratory procedures. All dogs shall have a positive daily human contact and socialization not limited to feeding time.

2. SCOPE

This standard operating procedure applies to all Ridglan Farms' facilities.

3. SAFETY

Correct handling of animals by trained handlers reduces the occurrence of bites and scratches.

4. INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Equipment Needed

- 4.1.1 Use any of the following enrichment items listed below when socializing with canines. These items have been approved by the IACUC committee. New items can be approved periodically by at least two members of the IACUC committee.
- Balls
 - PVC Pipe Sections
 - Peanut Butter
 - Other commercially available toys approved by the IACUC committee and attending veterinarian. These items should be used for supervised play only and removed from the enclosure when the employee is done socializing with the animals.

4.2 Socializing Requirements

- 4.2.1 All dogs shall have positive daily human contact and socialization not limited to feeding time.
- 4.2.2 Socialization Nursery Rooms, 1, 2a, 2b and 3
- Dogs housed in the nursery rooms are generally seven to sixteen weeks of age, which is the most important age to accustom the dog to being handled, petted, examined and restrained by humans.

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PQB 1/19/24

Ridglan-Standard Operating Procedure	ISSUE: 01, Revision: 07
Socialization	Implementation Date: 3/1/04
RDG-SOP-PRD-200-18	Page 2 of 5 Rev: 15Dec23

- b. Enrichment items are to be in each pen for dogs to chew or play with.
- c. Pups that are receiving the wet food should be given extra attention by being talked to, petted or played with briefly at that time.
- d. During the weekly weighing, each pup should be petted and talked to while holding them.
- e. Additional socialization should be conducted each week by interacting with pups in their pen and encouraging them to come to you at the front of the cages. Treats or peanut butter may be used as rewards for this behavior.
- f. Restrain, stand and sit the dog on a table several times during this period to acquaint the dog with a solid surface.
- g. Record the tattoo for any dog exhibiting antisocial behavior on the Sociability Evaluation of the Dog's Record, RDG-FORM-PRD-200-09.
- h. Complete and initial the job on the Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist Form, RDG-FORM-PRD-200-01, for socialization when done.

4.2.3 Socialization-Growing Area, Rooms 8

- a. All the pens will have a chew object.
- b. Group pens will be entered daily, and all dogs should be encouraged to approach you for petting.
- c. Dogs that appear timid or do not approach the handler should be encouraged additionally to allow touching and petting. Treats or peanut butter may be used as rewards for this behavior.
- d. All dogs should be encouraged to approach you for petting and holding when the cage door is opened.
- f. Sign off on the Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist Form; RDG-FORM-PRD-200-02, for socialization when done.

4.2.4 Socialization-Whelping Rooms

- a. Interact with the bitches during the time of daily feeding and cleaning by petting, speaking to them or touching them.
- b. Check all the pups in the whelping bins daily to monitor their health and accustom them to being handled

CONFIDENTIAL
 PPB 11/24/24

Ridglan-Standard Operating Procedure	ISSUE: 01, Revision: 07
Socialization	Implementation Date: 3/1/04
RDG-SOP-PRD-200-18	Page 3 of 5 Rev: 15Dec23

- c. After the pups are removed from the whelping bins handle them daily with touching, petting and holding them in your hands at the time of feeding of the wet food.
- d. Comfort the pups after vaccinations or other procedures that cause temporary discomfort by holding, petting and speaking to them.
- e. Sign off on the Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist Form, RDG-FORM-PRD-200-01, for socialization when done.

4.2.5 Socialization-Breeding Colony

- a. Put a chew object in each dog's cage.
- b. Speak to the dogs while feeding daily.
- c. Pet and speak to the dogs while conducting heat checks.
- d. Gently handle and restrain the dogs during heat checks and breeding.
- e. Sign off on the Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist Form, RDG-FORM-PRD-200-02, for socialization when done.

4.2.6 Socialization – Research Building

- a. Put a chew object in each dog's cage.
- b. Pet and speak to the dogs while feeding daily.
- c. All dogs should be encouraged daily to approach you for petting and holding when the cage door is opened.
- d. Comfort the dogs after vaccinations or other procedures that cause temporary discomfort by holding, petting and speaking to them.
- e. Gently handle and/or restrain the dogs during daily observations and other procedures.
- f. Sign off on the Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist Farm, RDG-FORM-RES-700-04.

CONFIDENTIAL

P98 11 Jun 24

Ridgland-Standard Operating Procedure	ISSUE: 01, Revision: 07
Socialization	Implementation Date: 3/1/04
RDG-SOP-PRD-200-18	Page 4 of 5 Rev: 15Dec23

4.2.7 Socialization – Order Dogs

- a. Fill out information of dogs selected for orders on RDG-FORM-PRD-200-09.
- b. Assign a number grade to the dog based on the grading scale on the form.
- c. Dogs receiving a grade of 4 should be replaced for that order is significant progress is not seen.
- d. Peanut Butter, toys, holding the dog and petting can be used to improve the dogs comfort with humans.
- e. When possible, multiple visits with these dogs should be done prior to shipment.

5. IDENTIFY UNSOCIABLE ANIMALS

5.1.1 Aggressive and frightened animals are considered unsociable.

- a. Aggressive animals are identified as having any of the following characteristics (euthanasia of these animals should be strongly considered):
 - a.1 Growl;
 - a.2 Walk with head down;
 - a.3 Tail held low, but arched away from hocks;
 - a.4 Hair stands on end;
 - a.5 Constrict pupils/direct eye contact;
 - a.6 Attack;
 - a.7 Stand with forelimbs extended cranially.
- b. Frightened animals are identified as having any of the following characteristic:
 - b.1 Crouch with ears flat against head.
 - b.2 Pacing in rear of enclosure.

CONFIDENTIAL

PJB 11 Jun 24

Ridglan-Standard Operating Procedure	ISSUE: 01, Revision: 07
Socialization	Implementation Date: 3/1/04
RDG-SOP-PRD-200-18	Page 5 of 5 Rev: 15Dec23

b.3 Moving away from you with tail between rear legs.

c. Record frightened and unsociable animals on the Sociability Evaluation Canines Form, RDG-PRD-200-09.

6. QUALITY RECORDS

6.1 Sociability Evaluation of Canines RDG-FORM-PRD-200-09

6.2 Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist RDG-FORM-PRD-200

6.3 Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist RDG-FORM-PRD-200-01

6.4 Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist RDG-FORM-PRD-200-02

6.5 Canine Caretaker Jobs Completed Checklist RDG-FORM-RES-700-04

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PJB 11 Jan 24