



**Florida State University  
Laboratory Animal Resources**

**Standard Operating Procedure  
Fish Health Surveillance Program**

**1.0 Scope and Application**

A comprehensive health surveillance program is an integral component of contemporary laboratory animal programs. Successful health surveillance programs are designed to identify potential human zoonosis, as well as identify, control, and eliminate disease variables that affect research animals and thusly compromise research. Fish from established colonies will be submitted for diagnostic testing to determine overall colony health.

**2.0 Summary of Method**

- Once annually, Principal Investigators will be asked provide fish for diagnostic testing. Approximately two to five live fish or fixed/frozen carcasses per housing room are requested. Fish submitted for diagnostic testing must be at least three months old and have been in the colony for at least three months. Fish may be ill, retired breeders, or surplus animals. Fish that are found dead are unacceptable for diagnostic testing.
- Fish requiring euthanasia, will be euthanized by rapid chilling, benzocaine hydrochloride, or MS-222 immersion.
- The diagnostic lab shipping guidelines will be followed. See guidelines for appropriate sample submission for desired test. (<http://www.criver.com/files/pdfs/research-models/zebrafish-sample-submission-form.aspx>)
- Water or detritus samples may be collected from the sump and submitted annually along with fish samples.
- Environmental swabs may be taken to determine the presence of contamination in live feed.

**Approval history:**

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