



Hygiene plan

Here you can find a compilation of some of the most important hygiene procedures in order to prevent spreading of suspected infectious diseases in an invertebrate stock.

Note: These procedures do not substitute a professional consultation by a veterinarian! Such a consultation is highly recommended in case of a suspected ill animal!

- Separate the affected animals into groups:

- 1) Definitely ill animals (with symptoms)
- 2) Suspected (in contact, kept together with the ill animals, same tools, but no symptoms)
- 3) Seemingly healthy animals (all others)

- Cleaning and disinfection of the enclosures with a steam cleaner

- Dispose of substrate

- Disinfection of tools and interior decoration with a steam cleaner, dishwasher or in an oven @150°C (300°F) for half an hour. If not possible, discard.

- Discard actual feeding animals, fixate some with formalin 3.5% or isopropanol 75% for a further examination (the volume of the carcass should be not more than 10-20% of the fixation liquid).

- Examine the enclosures of the feeding animals for scuttle flies (Phoridae), fixate those as described above.

Basic hygiene procedures

- Cleaning and disinfecting the tools regularly, at least after working at a different enclosure. The gold standard would be to have separate tools for each enclosure.

Quarantine enclosure:

- Quarantine enclosure has to be easy to clean and disinfected

- Simple interior

- Interior has to be easy to clean and disinfect like described above

- "Disposable" substrate (e.g. tissue paper, newspaper or paper towel)

- For ALL animals, which are new in the stock, for at least four, better eight weeks