For all animal procedure areas:

- The animal use space should be cleared of unnecessary equipment and clutter prior to bringing animals to the lab. All surfaces in the animal use space should be easily sanitizable. Materials made of wood, cardboard, or other materials that cannot be sanitized should be removed from the space.

- The fume hood or bench top should be cleaned prior to use with an appropriate disinfectant (i.e. chlorhexidine, bleach solution). Appropriate PPE should be put on before removing animals from cages.

- If live animals will be kept in a fume hood for any length of time, all chemicals should be removed from the hood.

- Maintain separate areas for cage storage, fur clipping, surgery, and non-surgical procedures, as each activity creates different levels of contamination.

- Supplies or equipment that come into contact with animals must be cleaned/disinfected before use with bleach, alcohol, or other appropriate disinfectant.

- Dirty cages are to be covered at all times and stored in a location that does not interfere with laboratory activities. All dirty cages should be removed from procedure areas as soon as possible to minimize allergen exposure. Cages must be removed from laboratory spaces by the end of the day, and should not be stored in the laboratory overnight.

- If animal use generates dirty bedding, feces, blood, or other contaminants, these must be cleaned up immediately.

- The animal use area must be disinfected immediately after animal work is completed. Cleaning the surface in between cages of animals is highly recommended to prevent cross-contamination.

- Inventory of expired drugs and supplies should be checked at least monthly. Expired materials must be discarded immediately or labeled “for in vitro use only” and stored in a non-animal use area.
For survival surgery areas:

- Aseptic surgery should be conducted in a dedicated facility or space. If an operating room is not available, an area physically separated from other laboratory activities may be acceptable.

- Surgical locations should have minimal traffic and contain surfaces that can be easily disinfected.

- The surgical preparation of the animal should be conducted in an area separated from where the surgery will be performed. The same table/bench top may be used for both surgical prep and surgery, but these areas must be distinct from one another.

- Always disinfect the surgery space prior to use, and between cages of animals. Non-sanitizable materials such as wood or cardboard should not be present in the surgery area.

- All surgical instruments and materials must be sterilized by steam autoclave or other appropriate means (refer to IACUC survival surgery guidelines) and kept sterile until they are used.

- Clean and disinfect surgery area immediately after use.

For euthanasia areas:

- Euthanasia equipment must be cleaned before and after use.

- It is preferable to euthanize animals in a hood, in their home cage if possible.

Questions or comments: Please contact the IACUC office at 415-476-2197.
For Survival Surgeries
Surgical preparation of the animal is performed in an area *separate* from where the surgery will take place.

Prep area examples:
Rodent surgery area examples: