OPERATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC NOTES

AN IMPROVED GUINEA PIG RESTRAINER. In a previous note Jones and Scheltema ('52) described and figured a small-animal restrainer designed for feeding mosquitoes in small cages. The disadvantages of this restrainer were: (1) it was not durable, being made of wood and wire, (2) it had no facilities for catching feces and urine, (3) it allowed mosquitoes to roost underneath the movable platform, and (4) it permitted nervous guinea pigs to move slightly, sometimes making it difficult for the mosquitoes to obtain full blood meals.

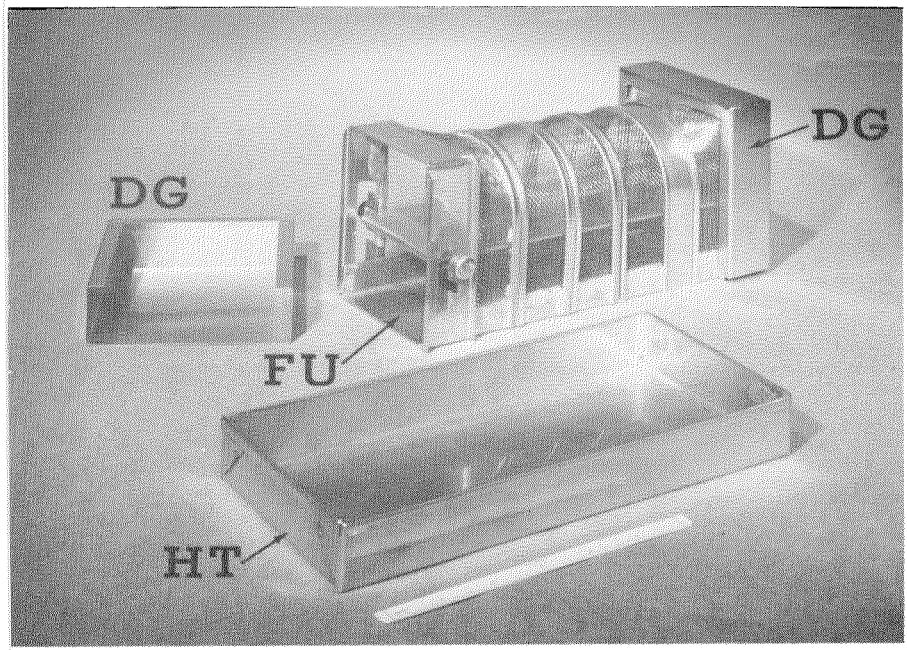
Several simple changes in the restrainer effectively eliminate all of these disadvantages. As shown in figure 1 the restrainer is made entirely of metal, is equipped with door guards (DG) that fit over the rack bars and sliding doors, contains fine wire screening inside the loops, has a fecal and urine tray (FU) with one end open, making washing easy, and has a handling metal tray (HT). The sliding doors are not shown.

Mosquitoes feed easily and to repletion undisturbed through the wire screening. The restrainer can be easily built by metal shops, is very durable, entirely prevents entrance of mosquitoes into the restrainer, is easily cleaned, handled, and stored.

We are much indebted to Douglas Walton and Clifton Brown for making the restrainer.—Jack Colvard Jones, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, Maryland.

Literature Cited

JONES, J. C. and SCHELTEMA, J. L. 1952. A small-animal restrainer for feeding mosquitoes in small cages. Mosq. News 12:42.



1. Disassembled guinea pig restrainer.