

TTUHSC LARC POLICY 010

MOUSE BREEDING AND COLONY MANAGEMENT

Purpose: Ensure that TTUHSC rodent colonies adhere to current animal welfare regulations, IACUC, and LARC policy on the housing density of mice.

Responsibilities:

Principle Investigator:

1. Obtaining an approved IACUC protocol for breeding.
2. Maintaining accurate colony records including number of mice weaned and transferred into experimental protocols and/or used as replacement breeders.
3. Daily checking of cages for pregnancies and new births. Cages with visibly pregnant animals should be marked with a PINK "Pregnant Dam" card. Cages with new litters should be marked with PINK "New Litter" card (back of Pregnant Dam card).
4. All litters must be weaned by 21 days unless 28 days is approved on the IACUC protocol or a Veterinary consult has occurred.
5. When notified of an OVERCROWDED cage the PI has 48 hours (2 business days) to wean the cage. After 48 hours the LARC staff will wean the cage and the PI will be charged.
6. Failure to properly maintain a breeding colony is

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I. Housing Density

An average adult mouse weighs ~~20~~ 25 grams, the standard cages used by LARC can hold up to 5 compatible adult mice per current regulations. The number of mice permitted in breeding cage may depend on the breeding scheme. These considerations are covered below.

II. Breeding Schemes Permitted

- x Pair Breeding (12 (id)-4 m C /C 6 >>BDC /y <</MCID[(d)10 (by)8 (L)15 (A)4 (R)8888888888

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AV can approve exceptions to 21 day weaning schedule for a given strain or litter. An appropriate weight for weaning pups is 18 g. For strains that consistently require delayed weaning, the IACUC protocol can be amended provided data for the justification exists in the colony records. Once approved by the IACUC, this extended weaning time is acceptable, however no more than one litter is ever allowed in a cage at a time.

VII. Overcrowded Cages

History: In some mousebreeding colonies, overcrowding of cages is common. It occurs most frequently when trio or harem mating systems are used and each of the females has a litter. The problem becomes severe when the litters are not weaned according to the procedures define in the approved protocol (28 days of age).

A. Definitions of Overcrowding

- x 2 litters in the same cage. These will be weaned immediately to prevent trampling of neonates.
- x 1 litter and dam with an additional pregnant dam(s) in the same cage.
- x Multiple visibly pregnant females in the same cage.
- x More than 5 mice older than 21 days in the same cage (the day of birth is considered day 1)

B. Fees

If the investigative staff fails to correct the overcrowding, LARC will split the cages in question to comply with OLAW, Guide, and AAALAC housing guidelines. The investigator will be notified of this action and will be charged a minimum of \$75 according to the rate schedule

\$25 for a new cage for the parents

\$25 for each cage of offspring (typically one cage of males, one cage of females)

C. Sanctions

The LARC is required to report patterns of overcrowded and non-compliance to the IACUC. In such cases the investigator will be subject to further remedial actions as deemed necessary by the IACUC and including revocation of breeding protocol(s)

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