

IACUC POLICIES, PROCEDURES, and GUIDELINES

Mouse Housing Density

Purpose:

This document establishes policies and provides guidelines for the housing of mice maintained at the University of Kentucky and used in biomedical research. Many research and other factors may impact the method of housing selected by the investigator and/or the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources. The intent of this document is to provide guidance to investigators regarding recommended methods when research requirements do not mandate specific methods.

General Guidelines:

Mouse Housing Densities

Static Micro-Isolator® or Small PIV cage:

(60 usable sq. in. or 65 usable sq. in. per cage)

4 adult mice

2 adults and 1 litter

Large PIV cage:

(78 usable sq. in. per cage)

5 adult mice

2 adults and 1 litter

Giant PIV cage:

(120 usable sq. in. per cage)

8 adult mice

2 adults and 2 litters

If a continuous mating scheme is used, 1 male:1 female, pups must be weaned at 21 days (to prevent the occurrence of double litters/female) or immediately upon the birth of a second litter.

If nursing females are housed singly with their litters, pups may be weaned between 22 and 28 days or immediately upon the birth of a second litter.

Cages with numbers of mice exceeding the above guidelines or with litters over 28 days of age are overcrowded. **Multiple dams with multiple litters per cage are not acceptable.**

DLAR animal care technicians will mark overcrowded cages with a pink "Investigator Attention" card and research staff will be notified by e-mail of the overcrowding. Researchers have 24 hours to bring the animal housing density into accordance or

DLAR will separate animals as deemed most appropriate and a charge will be made to the appropriate research account.

Any exceptions to the above guidelines must be approved by the IACUC as part of an Animal Care and Use Protocol and be communicated to DLAR through the use of a DLAR Service Request.

The IACUC appreciates your cooperation.

Approved and Adopted by the
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
March 16, 2005
Amended December 12, 2008