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Guidance for Types of Standard Housing

The IACUC adheres to guidelines for housing densities as stated in The Guide (8th edition).

To provide for the physical and social needs of research animals, the IACUC requires that appropriate environmental enrichment be provided as part of standard animal housing unless there is scientific justification, approved by the IACUC that impedes the use of environmental enrichment materials or practices.

Therefore, all types of housing should have at least one type of enrichment.

| Species (common name) | Standard Housing |
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| Mice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IVC caging or equivalent • Solid-bottom plastic cage with a wire bar lid that serves as a food hopper and water bottle holder. Cage may have provision for automated water nozzle. • Filter top (microisolator lid). • Cages are placed on ventilated racks providing filtered air directly to the cage. • Water bottle or connection to automated watering system. • Contact bedding consisting of commercially-produced corn cob particles, cotton, or paper products specifically made for laboratory animals. • Commercially-available laboratory rodent diets approved by BRC/ IACUC • All mouse cages will be provided with a paper block/nesting material. Additionally, some cages will also be provided with domes or tunnels to hide and/or enrich their behaviour. Sunflower seeds provided to breeding cages are not only a form of nutritional, but also enrichment supplement. • Additional enrichment should be provided to singly housed mice. |

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| Rats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IVC caging or equivalent • Solid-bottom plastic cage with a wire bar lid that serves as a food hopper and water bottle holder. Cage may have provision for automated water nozzle. • Filter top (microisolator lid). • Cages are placed on ventilated racks providing filtered air directly to the cage. • Water bottle or connection to automated watering system. • Commercially-available laboratory rodent diets approved by BRC/ IACUC. • All rat cages will be provided with some form of materials for the animals to gnaw. These may be pieces of “Nyla bones” or soft wooden blocks. • Tunnels can be provided. |
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