

**I. Purpose**

UCSF is committed to ensuring that all animals are ensured appropriate housing in all husbandry situations. This policy has been developed to ensure that UCSF complies with the Guide for the Care and Use of Animals, 8th Edition, and on mouse cage density.

**II. Regulatory or Accreditation Authority**

*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition, November, 2013, p. 57.*

**III. Scope**

This policy applies to all labs and centralized housing which house mice at UCSF.

**IV. Policy**

**A. Cage Density**

The following table indicates that maximum number of rats that may be housed in UCSF rat cages:

<b>Body Weight of Each Rat (grams)</b>	<b>Ancare Static (140in<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Lab Product Ventilated (211 in<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Allentown Ventilated (140 in<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Thoren Ventilated (121 in<sup>2</sup>)</b>
< 100	8	12	8	7
101 to 200	6	9	6	5
201 to 300	4	7	4	4
301 to 400	3	5	3	3
401 to 500	2	3	2	2
> 500	2	2	2	1

**B. Breeding**

In breeding cages, Pair Breeding (one male and one female) is the standard method for breeding, with no more than two adults and one litter per cage. Exceptions to this must be justified in the protocol and approved by the IACUC (See **Appendix C**).

**IACUC Appendices for Rat Cage Density**

Appendices are provided as IACUC suggestions or recommendations. Deviation from the attached appendices may require IACUC approval.

## **Appendix A: Enrichment and Social Housing**

### **IACUC Approved: July 2015**

Rats must be provided with Environmental Enrichment. Provide at least one piece of enrichment in each cage (nestlet, shelter, additional nesting material, etc.).

Rats are to be socially housed any rats singly housed must comply with the exceptions in the Environmental Enrichment and Social Housing policy. Excessive weight or size is not an approved criterion for single housing. LARC should be contacted for caging guidance in this situation.

## **Appendix B: Breeding and Weaning**

### **IACUC Approved: July 2015**

#### **Breeding**

Monogamous Breeding is permitted. Ventilated rack cage capacity is one male, one female, and one litter.

- Cages are labeled by LARC with birth and P21 projected weaning dates
- Cages containing a litter older than P21 cannot also contain a newborn litter
  - For the welfare of a newborn litter, LARC staff is authorized to separate litters into new cages on a recharge basis when two generations of pups are present.

#### **Weaning**

Litters are to be weaned at **P21** and separated into same sex cages

## **Appendix C: Exceptions or Variations Requiring IACUC Approval**

### **IACUC Approved: [Approval Date]**

Continuing approval is contingent upon a closely managed breeding program.

**Extended weaning** (P22-P28): may be requested in the IACUC protocol under 'Reportable Exceptions' for strains that consistently require delayed weaning. The request should include scientific justification. When approved, the researcher must separate the female from the male during pregnancy to avoid breeding at the post-partum estrus.

**Harem Mating:** Females must be separated prior to parturition. i.e. no litters may be born in a harem mating cage.

**Other:** Variations other than harem mating and extended weaning may be submitted to the IACUC for review.