

Emory University Division of Animal Resources

Standard Operating Procedure

Subject: Correction of Overcrowded Mouse Cages

DAR SOP#: 20-32

Introduction:

The following procedure describes housing densities for the various sizes of mouse cages maintained at Emory University animal facilities. This procedure must be followed to ensure compliance with the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

- A. Maximum densities for mice housed in microisolators are as follows:
Standard shoebox microisolator: 5 adults per cage
Super mouse microisolator: 6 adults per cage
Litters: 1 litter (plus dam and sire) per cage (either standard or supermouse)
- B. Matings may be established as pairs (one male, one female) or trios (one male, two females). If both females of a trio mating are pregnant at the same time, one female must be removed prior to birth of second litter, so that only one litter is present in cage at a time.
- C. Litters are to be weaned between 21 and 28 days post partum.
- D. It is the responsibility of the investigator to adhere to maximum cage density policies. If an animal care technician observes overcrowded cages, he/she will notify the investigator or his designated contact person of the situation. The cage will be flagged and an *Overcrowded Cage Report* noting location of the cage will be faxed to the investigator or contact person. Once notified, the investigator will be given 48 hours to correct the overcrowded cage.
- E. If the overcrowded cage is not corrected within the designated period, the animal care technician will be responsible for correcting the cage. The technician will place mice in separate cages to comply with density policies and will assign new cards to the cages with the following information: Investigator, protocol number, sex, number of mice, parent cage identification.
- F. The technician will note on the census form that an overcrowded cage has been corrected. The investigator will be assessed a \$20.00 charge for technician time for each overcrowded cage that is corrected.

Written by: Sylvia Banks
Supersedes: none
Approved by: Noel D.M. Lehner
Date issued: 9/20/00
Last Reviewed:
Revised:

URGENT - IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED

Division of Animal Resources

OVERCROWDED CAGE NOTICE

Investigator/Contact Person: _____ Fax #: _____
Date: ___/___/___ Time: _____
Animal Facility: _____
DAR Technician: _____ Phone: _____

The following mouse cages are not in compliance with NIH Guidelines for housing densities:

Room #	Rack #	# of Cages	Cage IDs (if available)

These cages are overcrowded either because of litters that need to be weaned or too many adults in the cage. Please correct the above noted overcrowded cage within 48 hours of notification, and limit the animals/cage density **to 5 adults/ standard microisolator** or **6 adults/super mouse microisolator**, or **one breeder pair plus litter/cage**. If the overcrowded cages noted above have not been corrected the DAR technician will be responsible for correcting the cages at a charge of **\$20/cage**.

Cage must be corrected by ___/___/___ at __:___.

Reference DAR SOP 20-32