
POLICY ON MOUSE CAGE DENSITY

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition* (2011) recommends 330 cm² for a dam with a litter. The *Guide* recommends greater than or equal to 96.7 cm² for group-housed mice >25 gms. NACLAR guidelines (2004) recommend >96 cm² for mice >25 gms, but does not mention a dam with a litter. Following the Guide recommendations, NUS mouse cages can maximally house 2 adults and 1 litter.

The standard practice of weaning mouse is at 21 days of age; the NUS Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) may allow exception to this policy only after a specific review of the scientific justification and approval; or it may be approved in specific situations upon CM veterinary advice

Pair Breeding

Pair breeding consists of one female mice and one male mouse housed in the same cage.

1. Approved Procedure
 - a. Remove the male prior to the birth of the first litter to avoid post-partum breeding.

OR

- b. Wean the first litter at 21 days of age.

Note: CM staff will remove the first litter when the birth of the second litter occurs and the cost will be billed to the Principal Investigator.

Trio breeding of mice

Trio breeding consists of two female mice and one male mouse housed in the same cage.

1. Approved Procedure
 - a. Move the pregnant female to a separate cage when the plug is identified or when she is obviously pregnant prior to parturition.

Note: CM will move the female and the litter, if born in the trio-breeding cage, and the cost will be billed to the Principal Investigator.
 - b. A new female may be added to the cage when the pregnant female is removed.
2. Alternative Procedure
 - a. **This procedure may only be used after IACUC approval. It has to be described in the breeding protocol with scientific justification**
 - b. If approved by the IACUC, the two females and their litters may remain with the male. However, pups must be weaned promptly at day 21.

Note: Pups not weaned at day 21 will be weaned by CM staff on day 22 and the cost will be billed to the Principal Investigator.

- c. CM will change the cages weekly or bi-weekly, as necessary, and the increased per diem will be billed to the Principal Investigator.

References:

AAALAC website: FAQ on Trio Breeding http://aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm#C trio

Guide for the Care and Use of Research Animals, Eighth Edition. National Research Council; National Academy Press, Washington, DC. 2011

Guidelines for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. National Advisory Committee for Laboratory Animal Research, 2004

http://www.ava.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/C64255C0-3933-4EBC-B869-4621A9BF682/13557/Attach3_AnimalsforScientificPurposes.PDF

Jackson Laboratory website: <http://jaxmice.jax.org>

Various other academic institutions – communication or websites
