

**SEATTLE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OPERATING POLICIES / PROCEDURES**

DEPARTMENT: Institutional Animal Care and Use
Committee
POLICY NUMBER: IACUC-030
REPLACES:
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2005
REVISION DATE: April 8, 2011
POSTED FROM:

TITLE: Environmental Enrichment Plan

SUMMARY:

The purpose of an environmental enrichment plan is to promote physiological and psychological well being of animals housed at Seattle Children's Research Institute.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

030-1 Housing Procedures

030-1.1 Single Cage Housing: Housing of individual rodents by themselves is avoided whenever possible. However, this is often necessary as required by research protocols, or in consideration for animal health concerns or incompatibilities with other animals.

030-1.2 Group Housing: Rodents at Seattle Children's are group housed, by default, at cage densities not exceeding the recommendations of the Guide for The Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the *Guide*).

030-1.3 Breeding Animals: Dictated by the goals of the protocol, and the strain of rodent being studied, breeding animals (mice in particular) may need to be housed in a variety of arrangements to encourage successful breeding, parturition, and rearing of young. A thorough presentation of strain breeding characteristics should be included in the protocol to enable the IACUC to make a reasonable assessment of the planned breeding practices.

030-1.4 Breeding protocols should be consistent with Office of Animal Care standard operating procedures when possible.

030-2 Environmental Enrichment Procedures

- 030-2.1 Enrichment for mice: Individually housed mice, breeding animals, weanlings, and group housed mice prone to aggressive behavior are provided with nesting materials (Nestlets[®]) as a source of environmental enrichment. “Shepherd shacks”, “mouse huts” and “igloos” are also used for certain mouse breeding schemes.
- 030-2.2 Enrichment for rats: “Nestlets” as mentioned above, and plastic domes (fat rat huts) are provided for certain breeding schemes.
- 030-2.3 Enrichment for rabbits: A variety of toys are given to rabbits, including dumbbells, ferret balls, kong, busy buddy footballs, jingle balls and flexi-leys.
- 030-2.4 Enrichment for swine: A variety of various size balls, ferret ball, kong, busy buddy footballs, jingle balls and road cones are provided to swine.
- 030-2.5 Enrichment for aquatics: No suitable enrichment devices have been currently identified.
- 030-2.6 Feeding Enrichment: Depending on the need, this may take the form of identifying alternate locations for placing feed to the providing of specialty diets.

REFERENCES:

National Research Council, “The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals”. National Academy Press; Washington DC. 1996.

Submitting Office: Office of Institutional Assurances

Approved by:

\\s\ Anne Clancy, IACUC Chairperson, 4/20/2011

\\s\ William R. Morton, VMD, Attending Veterinarian, 4/20/2011

\\s\ Mason Craig Bailey, Manager/Office of Animal Care, 4/19/2011