



Laboratory Animal Resources Center

Standard Operating Procedures

Cage Density - Mice

2013, Revised 2019

- A. Cage Density:
1. Adults
Standard mouse cages, **5 adults**
Note: Mice will be considered to be adults upon weaning
 2. Matings may be established as pairs (one male, one female) or trios (one male, two females)
Mating pair: one litter plus dam and sire.
Mating trio: with no more than 12 pups total that are all the same age.
Mating trio with more than 12 pups: one dam and litter must be separated to a new cage.
- B. Weaning:
1. Litters should be weaned at 21 days post-partum.
 2. If pups are smaller than typical for common strains, they may be left with the dam for 28 days.
- C. It is the responsibility of the investigator to adhere to maximum cage density policies. If a laboratory animal technician observes overcrowded cages, the technician will notify the investigator or the designated contact person of the situation. The cage will be flagged and a bright pink **Overcrowded Cage Card** posted on the cage. Location of the cage will be e-mailed to investigator. Once notified, the investigator has **24 hours** to correct the overcrowded cage.
- D. If the overcrowded cage is not corrected within the designated period, the LARC technician will correct the situation. The technician will place the mice in separate cages to comply with the cage density policy and will assign new cards to the cages. The following information will be included: Investigator, ACUP #, index #, strain, sex, number of mice, and parent cage identification.
- E. The LARC technician will note on the census card that an overcrowded cage has been corrected. The investigator will be assessed a service charge for at least **one-hour** of Animal Technician Time for each overcrowded cage corrected.
- F. LARC management reserves the right to separate overcrowded animals on an emergency basis (animal welfare concerns exist), whether the PI has been contacted or not.