

## Policy on Animal Housing Density

This document establishes the policy of the IACUC regarding housing space requirements for animals at the University of Kentucky. Specific research requirements that deviate from this document must receive IACUC approval prior to initiating.

### Policy

Animals must be housed at densities as described in the applicable documents. The IACUC considers the space requirements provided in the following benchmark documents as minimums: *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*; *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*; and the Animal Welfare Act Regulations.

Where these documents are silent the IACUC may reference the guidelines provided by professional societies, such as the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and the American Society for Mammologists.

Space requirements for rodents are based on the recommendations of the NIH Guide and USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations, as applicable. Breeding rodents can create situations where cage overcrowding can rapidly occur. To avoid overcrowding when breeding rodents:

If a continuous mating scheme is used, 1 adult male with 1 adult female plus 1 litter, pups must be weaned at 21 days of age.

If nursing females are housed singly with their litters, pups must be weaned no later than 28 days of age or immediately upon birth of a second litter

Two dams each with a litter are not permissible unless housed in a cage allowing each female plus litter adequate space (female plus litter space  $\text{in}^2 \times$  number of females).

Exceptions to this policy must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC and be based upon performance indices related to animal well-being and research requirements.

### References

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th edn) by the National Research Council of the National Academies Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2011.  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-Care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>

Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (3<sup>rd</sup> edn), Federation of Animal Science Societies Champaign, IL, 2010.  
[https://www.adsa.org/Portals/default/SiteContent/docs/AgGuide3rd/Ag\\_Guide\\_3rd\\_ed.pdf](https://www.adsa.org/Portals/default/SiteContent/docs/AgGuide3rd/Ag_Guide_3rd_ed.pdf)

Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations, United States Department of Agriculture. <https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/5969370/PDF>

[Reference Tables for Meeting Policy 110 Housing Density Requirements](#)

Approved and Adopted by the IACUC:  
March 16, 2005

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