

IACUC Guidelines on Cage Population Densities for Breeding Mice at UWM

Last Review: 4/2022

Revision History: 3/2019

These guidelines identify the numbers of breeding mice which can be housed in polycarbonate cages of at least 75 sq. inches of floor space. These guidelines are based upon housing recommendations from the 8th edition of “The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals”, and on best management practices to support research, prevent overcrowded conditions, and assure litters are weaned appropriately.

75 sq. inch caging may house:

- No more than 5 adult mice.
- Trio breeding schemes of one (1) adult male and two (2) adult females.
 - Acceptable for inbred, transgenic, or other strains of mice that produce smaller litters.
 - A maximum of 12 pups in any cage with the 3 adults. In cages where the number of pups exceeds 12, one of the females with her litter will be removed from the cage.
 - Pups weaned at 21 days.
- Trio breeding schemes of one (1) adult male and two (2) adult females for outbred, hybrid, and strains that produce larger litters, **only if**
 - One pregnant female is removed from the cage prior to parturition.
 - There is only one litter per cage with up to 2 adults.
 - Pups are weaned at, or before, 28 days.
- Monogamous pairing of one (1) adult male and one (1) adult female for strains with larger litters.
 - Pups are weaned at, or before, 28 days.

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to record accurate birth dates on cage cards for calculating weaning dates. Exceptions to these guidelines are considered to be an exception to “The Guide” and will require IACUC approval.

Compliance with IACUC Guidelines on Cage Population Densities for Breeding Mice at UWM

1. ARC staff will flag cages that they find that do not comply with the Guidelines.
2. ARC staff will inform the Animal Care Manager or Veterinarian that cages were flagged.
3. The Animal Care Manager or Veterinarian will let the PI know.
4. The PI will be given until the next week day to correct the situation.
5. If the situation is not corrected, the ARC staff will do so and charge for tech time.
6. If the ARC consistently has to remind the PI, (e.g. 3 or 4 weeks in a row,) the matter will be brought to the attention of the IACUC.