



Office of the Vice Provost for Research
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

2021-2022 Annual Report of Research Facility

Registration Number: 14-R-0065

Customer Number: 628

October 7, 2022

Summary of Exceptions to the regulations and standards:

1. Non-standard housing, sanitation

- a. Regulation: 3.128 Space requirements
Regulation: 3.131 Sanitation
- b. Description: White footed mice are gregarious, particularly during the winter months, and experience suggests keeping 4-6 mice (one male, several females) in a shoebox cage or 12-18 mice of mixed sex allows for sufficient breeding with intrinsic regulation of the numbers of offspring produced. In this manner, we produce only enough for adequate turnover of the colony, but do not experience breeding that needs frequent culling. Although a 1:3 ratio of males to females is optimal, having nondominant males within the cage does not affect breeding. Fighting is minimal among males. Prior experience has determined that cleaning cages less frequently (one cage change every 2-3 weeks) enhances breeding, probably because of pheromone marking of the cage. Finally, although gravid females could be separated, we have found that such litters survive less frequently than do those allowed to remain with the other mice. The colony has been maintained successfully with no need to introduce new field-derived individuals.
- c. Species: *Peromyscus* Number: 520

2. Space requirement

- a. Regulation: 3.28(c) (2) (i) adequate freedom of movement
- b. Description: For tick infestation, hamsters may be held within custom-made stainless steel mesh tubes that prevent them from turning around and grooming. Such tubes are wrapped within paper toweling and taped so that ticks that do not attach do not escape; in addition, the wrapping helps to conserve body heat. Infestation is allowed to occur for 2 hours.
- c. Species: Hamster Number 4