

Georgia State University
Registration Number: 57-R-0012
Customer ID Number: 907

Georgia State University adheres to the standards and regulations under the Act and requires that exceptions to the standards and regulations be specified and explained by the principal investigator and approved by the IACUC. A summary of all such exceptions/exemptions can be seen below. In addition to identifying the IACUC-approved exceptions/exemptions, this summary includes a brief explanation of the exceptions/exemptions, as well as the species and number of animals affected.

Exception/Exemption

9 CFR AWA Part 3 (Subpart B) §3.28(b)(3)(i)

“The interior height of any primary enclosure used to confine hamsters shall be at least 6 inches”

Roborovskii hamsters (*P. roborovskii*) have been housed in 5-inch high cages because it is documented that 6-inch-high cages are detrimental to the growth of a similar sized hamster species (*P. sungorus*) [Gilman WC, et.al "Effect of the New USDA Cage Height Standard on Body Weights of Weanling and Djungarian Dwarf Hamsters (*Phodopus sungorus*). Contemporary Topics in Lab Animal Science, 32(1): 17-19, 1993.]

Species: Roborovski Hamsters

Number of Animals Affected: 644

Exceptions/Exemptions

9 CFR AWA Part 3 (Subpart B) §3.31(a) (1)

“[Hamster] enclosures shall be sanitized at least once every 2 weeks...”

- a. Nursing Syrian hamster cages may go for more than 14 days between cage changes due to pre-parturition cage change and post-parturition cage change interval.

Species: Syrian Hamsters

Number of Animals Affected: 1,910

- b. Cage accessories (wire bar top, food hopper, solid cage top, filter top) are changed out for all rodent species quarterly congruent with the findings in the article entitled “Investigation of Appropriate Sanitization Frequency for Rodent Caging Accessories: Evidence Supporting Less-frequent Cleaning” as found in JAALAS, 45(6), 40-43, 2006; as well as in-house ATP testing performed between March 2019 and April 2019.

Species: Syrian Hamsters

Number of Animals Affected: 1,910

Exceptions/Exemptions

9 CFR AWA Part 3 (Subpart B) §3.33

“Animals housed in the same primary enclosure shall be maintained in compatible groups, ...”

- a. It is essential to be able to manipulate social housing conditions to study the effects of social experience on brain and behavior, so some Syrian Hamsters are singly housed. That would include experimental animals that were ordered and only ever singly housed, the Resident Aggressor (RA) colony, breeders (that may or may not have a litter with them), and any group housed animals that were eventually singly housed to become experimental animals, RAs, or breeders. Syrian Hamsters are solitary and territorial animals in the wild.

Species: Syrian Hamsters

Number of Animals Affected: 1,867

- b. Social hierarchy paradigm: One hamster will be placed into each of the 4 compartments for an acclimatization period of up to 3 days with food and water readily available. After habituation, the dividers will be removed to allow the hamsters to interact freely and establish a hierarchy. Initial hierarchy establishment will be monitored by a live observer and hamsters will be allowed

to freely interact for up to 7 days but will not spend a more than a total of 8 days in the apparatus. Hamster rank within the hierarchy will be determined using the percentage of agonistic encounters won, average distance covered over the interaction days and other behavioral measures. To assess long-term hierarchy maintenance, animals may be reintroduced to the apparatus for the above-mentioned period.

Species: Syrian Hamsters

Number of Animals Affected: 1,664