

IACUC Approved Exceptions/Exemptions

October 1, 2016 to September 31, 2017

- Food pellets and soft food may be placed on the floor of RODENT CAGES (including dwarf hamsters) for new weanlings, animals that are ill, post-operative or geriatric. Justification is for health or scientific purposes. October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 113 dwarf hamsters.
- Complete cage change every 10-14 days for DWARF HAMSTERS housed in ventilated cage racks. Justification includes reduction of stress and litter mortality (via cannibalism). Also, the species is urine concentrating/water conserving which reduces urine and ammonia output. October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 113 dwarf hamsters.
- Complete cage change every 10-14 days for DWARF HAMSTERS housed in static micro-isolators in order to increase breeding and decrease litter mortality. Justification includes reducing stress and mortality via cannibalism through less frequent disturbance of the animals. October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 0 dwarf hamsters.
- Complete cage change every 2 weeks for PEROMYSCUS BREEDING PAIRS housed in static micro-isolators in order to increase breeding efficiency and decrease litter mortality. Justification includes reducing stress and litter mortality via cannibalism through less frequent disturbance of the animals. October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 50 breeders.
- DEGU are housed a minimum of 2 to large and are fed daily 1 handful of chinchilla chow and 1 handful of guinea pig chow on the floor of the cage. The chinchilla and Guinea pig foods are pelleted in a smaller form than the mouse and rat chow and will not fit in the feed hoppers without dropping through. The University of Toronto (where the degus originated) placed the chow in bowls on the floor but the degus rapidly dispersed the food onto the floor. Therefore, that university elected to feed the animals on the floor of the cage and recommended that we follow suit. October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 64 degu.
- DEGU are housed in cages without filter tops to allow greater air flow and vocal communication between animals within all cages. October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 64 degu.
- HARES are to be temporarily housed free-range in Aviary 3 (females, n=10) and Aviary 4 (males, n=10) at the Field Research Station Fort Missoula (FRSFM) until construction on a permanent hare housing facility is completed. Hares in the wild are solitary creatures but are known to coexist at high densities. It is also not the nature of hares to tunnel or dig burrows and thus they should not be able to escape from the aviaries as they are currently constructed. This free-range setting is beneficial to social interactions and living in a more naturalistic setting. The hares will each have one or both ears dyed with nontoxic fur dye to enable the husbandry and veterinary staff to visualize and identify any hare that is aggressive and endangering the welfare of other hares co-habited. Should a hare need to be removed from social housing, it will be housed in a home cage within the aviary. This plan was vetted by the USDA Inspector, Gwynn Hallberg, DVM. October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 20 snowshoe hares.

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Exceptions/Exemptions (continued)

- *HARES housed within home cages will have their cage-pans cleaned weekly and a complete change-out of the cages for deep cleaning and disinfection will occur on a monthly basis, rather than bi-weekly. The justification for this altered cleaning schedule is that these wild hares have previously demonstrated the ability to harm themselves in their attempts to move away from all human interaction. Therefore, limiting human interaction limits the possibility for self-inflicted harm (nosebleeds, scratches, lacerations and broken backs).
October 1 – September 30, 2017 = 20 snowshoe hares.*