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Summary of Exceptions to Welfare Regulations

Eighteen Siberian (aka Djungarian) hamsters (*Phodopus sungorus*), both males and females, which have been paired for breeding, will remain paired for the duration of their time needed to breed a sufficient number of pups necessary to maintain the colony. Although page 74 [§3.28 (b)(1)(ii)] of the Animal Welfare Regulations states "A nursing female hamster, together with her litter, shall be housed in a primary enclosure which contains no other hamsters...", males will remain in the cage with the females and pups in order to avoid fighting, which can occur when pairs of Siberian hamsters are split and repaired. Each pair is monitored daily for breeding activity, and after 18 days is checked daily for litters. When breeding is to be ended, males are removed from the cage and females are monitored for litters for another 19 days. The IACUC has approved this changed.