

8th March 2012

Dear Principal Investigators,

We would like to bring to your attention the attached IACUC POLICY ON MOUSE CAGE DENSITY, effective Monday 2nd April 2012.

This policy was developed, at the request of investigators and in conjunction with the Animal Users Committee, and approved by the IACUC, to provide clear guidelines on pair and trio breeding of mice. We encourage researchers to be diligent in separating or weaning animals in accord with this policy.

Although it is the researcher's responsibility to ensure cages do not become overcrowded, when Comparative Medicine (CM) staff find cages that are overcrowded, they will label them with an 'overcrowded' cage card. The investigator will then be given one (1) full day to resolve the issue. If the overcrowding is not resolved by 8:00 am the following day, CM will do the separation, and a fee of \$25 per cage will be billed to the investigator. The fee is being imposed to discourage reliance on CM husbandry staff to do the separation, as it is preferable that the investigator's staff who are responsible for the breeding and know the individual pairings do the separation to avoid any confounding issues.

Please contact the IACUC office or CM if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Prof Lam Toong Jin
IACUC Chair
(Transmitted via email)