

Rodent Cage Density

Overcrowded mouse cages represent a significant animal welfare concern. Such cages are noncompliant with Public Health Service (PHS) Policy and our Assurance to PHS. *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states the PHS recommendations for housing densities. In order to standardize housing densities and prevent or eliminate the possibility of overcrowding within cages, the Office of Animal Care Management has adopted the following IACUC-approved policy. **Cage sizes and animal numbers allowed are listed in the table below.** Cage densities exceeding these numbers represent clear policy violation.

Table of Maximum Rodent Cage Densities

		Super Mouse 750 Cage	Super Mouse 1800 Cage
Mouse	< 10 g	12 Mice	30 mice
	10-15 g	9 Mice	22 mice
	15-25 g	6 Mice	15 mice
	> 25 g	5 Mice	12 mice
Female & litter		One plus one additional adult	Three plus one additional adult

		One Cage Rat	One Cage Rat 2100
Rat	< 100 g	5 rats	12 rats
	100-200 g	4 rats	8 rats
	200- 300 g	3 rats	7 rats
	300 -400 g	2 rats	5 rats
	400-500 g	1 rat	3 rats
	> 500 g	1 rat	2 rats
Female & litter		Not permitted	One

Floor Area for Ventilated Cages

Super Mouse 750 = 12 in x 6 in = 72 sq in
 Super Mouse 1800 = 12 in x 15 in = 180 sq in
 One Cage Rat = 12 in x 7.5 in = 90 sq in
 One Cage 2100 Rat = 12 in x 17 in = 204 sq in

Overcrowded Cages

Overcrowded cages will be reported to investigator. OACM will remove mice from overcrowded cages if the investigator has not done so within 24 hours of notification. There is a fee for this service.

Identification

A completed cage card **must** be present on **all** rodent cages. The information on the card should include: the investigator's name and current contact information for the PI or a responsible lab member, the approved IACUC protocol number, the animal source and date of birth or arrival at the facility, the animal's species and strain or stock. Individual animal identification must follow the Animal Identification Policy and be described in the animal protocol and approved by the IACUC.

The OACM staff is available to discuss any questions you may have regarding this policy.