



Memo

To: All OLAC Staff and Berkeley Rodent Users

From: Dr. Greg Lawson

Date: 2-23-17

Re: Environmental Enrichment

This Memo defines the standard Environmental Enrichment that will be used for mice and for rats. It is important that deviation from this standard MUST be approved by the IACUC and submitted as a “Request for Special Services” to the facility supervisor.

Transferring a portion of environmental enrichment material from a dirty to a clean cage is done to reduce the stress of a clean cage environment devoid of familiarity.

Mice:

Purpose: To standardize enrichment throughout all UC Berkeley vivaria: standardize processes, improve breeding efficiency, enrich the environment.

Method: The standard Environmental Enrichment for mice will consist of a single 4 gm puck of brown crinkle paper and a 2 inch square of compressed cotton-like synthetic material (Nestlet). During cage change a portion of the original nest will be transferred to the new cage such that the overall volume of the enrichment material does not impact the amount of required floor space. If a litter less than 7 days of age is present, the entire nest is moved to the new cage undisturbed and **nothing is removed or added until the next cage change.**

For those using Inovive disposable caging, the cages are currently pre-bedded and contain a sheet of weave cut paper that is used by the mice in the same manner as the puck listed above.

Rats:

Purpose: Rats enjoy gnawing rather than tearing and creating nests.

Method: The standard Environmental Enrichment for rats will consist of an OLAC approved item to gnaw and a 4 gm brown crinkle paper puck. The rats may not build a nest, but will manipulate the puck and lay on it.