



# Memo

**To:** All OLAC Staff and Berkeley Guinea Pig Users  
**From:** Dr. Greg Lawson  
**Date:** 3-14-17  
**Re:** PVC Tube Environmental Enrichment for guinea pigs

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The current SOP on Guinea Pig housing states that if a PVC tube is used, the area that it occupies must be considered as a reduction in floor space and thus will result in a reduction in the number of animals that can be housed in that enclosure. This is because the Animal Welfare Act states that a guinea pig cage must have a specific floor space and a minimum of 7 inches in cage height. Because the PVC is typically 4-6 inch diameter this reduces the cage height thus reducing the necessary floor space.

The USDA has determined that the benefit of the enrichment device to the guinea pig outweighs the lack of cage height for the amount of floor space that the tube occupies, but that this exception to the Animal Welfare Act should be stated in the Guinea Pig SOP.

The purpose of this memo is to specify that the inclusion of a PVC enrichment tube for guinea pigs is allowable and that the area that it occupies in the cage will not be considered as a reduction in floor space due to the reduced height. This practice will be instituted immediately and the SOP will be amended to reflect this deviation from the Animal Welfare Act.