



Memo

To: OLAC Staff, Research Investigators and Staff and IACUC

From: Dr. Greg Lawson

Date: 5-3-17

Re: Standardization of Environmental Enrichment

Due to future budget cuts and the need to keep per diems reasonable, we need to standardize practices: Bedding, Feed, PPE and Environmental Enrichment. The first that we will be addressing is Environmental Enrichment.

MICE

1. Standardized Enrichment means that anything other than the 4gm puck of crinkle paper and a 2 inch square of fiber nestlet used in a recent study on breeding mice will be considered an exception.
 - a. All exceptions **must** be requested by filling out a “special request” form and submitting it to the OLAC supervisor that oversees the facility your mice are housed in.
 - i. <http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/special-services-request>
 - b. The only exception that **MUST** be submitted to the IACUC for approval is negating Environmental Enrichment altogether. The reason for not using enrichment must be justified in writing.
2. Enrichment items will consist of a 4gm puck of crinkle paper and a 2 inch square of fiber nestlet.
 - a. Cages will be pre-bedded with these items
 - b. If you are only using the cage, the enrichment items should be removed and placed in a specified container for re-use. Let’s try to prevent waste.
 - i. these will be returned to the cage wash area, autoclaved and reused for pre-bedding cages

3. When a cage is changed, a portion of the non-soiled enrichment should be transferred to the new cage. This will bring familiar odors to the new cage and should help to reduce stress.
4. If a new litter is present, the entire enrichment nest should be transferred to the new cage.
 - a. Remove all enrichment from the new cage before transferring the pups and nest
 - b. No new materials will be added to the cage until the next cage change
5. Because the new nesting materials will hinder the ability to see the mice in the cage, the most visual health check will be at cage change out.
 - a. Typically mice that are unhealthy will be outside of the nest
 - b. Ill mice do not build quality nests
6. Other enrichment items such as red plastic igloos and shepherd shacks can be used but since they are not part of the standard enrichment items the PI will have to purchase them from OLAC (Shepherd Shacks approximately \$6/10).
7. For those areas using disposable caging, these are pre-bedded with a sheet of scored paper for shredding

RATS

1. Rats like to gnaw more than shred.
2. The standard enrichment will be a nylabone and approximately 4 gm of crinkle paper (Enviro-dri).
 - a. 4 gms of Enviro dry fills the inside of a Shepherd Shack but would be best if we had a measuring cup in each box to measure it out with so we are consistent with the amount used.
 - b. Since Rats don't shred, they will only lay on a "puck". However, they do like to burrow into the loose Enviro-dri.