Adopted by UCAR 7-16-14 Revised by Anjelica Rehring and approved by UCAR 7/17/24

The primary aim of environmental enrichment is to:

I. Enhance animal well-being by providing animals with sensory and motor stimulation, through structures and resources;

II. Facilitate the expression of species-typical behaviors; and

III. Promote psychological well-being through physical exercise, manipulative activities, and cognitive challenges according to species-specific characteristics.

This policy applies to all rodents housed at the University of Rochester.

Each animal should be provided with the opportunity to exhibit species typical behavior. Primary enclosures are continually evaluated by the Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM) to provide laboratory rodents with an appropriate environment that enhances their well-being.

unless otherwise justified based on social incompatibility resulting from inappropriate behavior, veterinary concerns regarding animal well-being, or scientific necessity approved by the UCAR.

A. Cages with solid bottoms are the default to provide a comfortable resting and walking surface. Investigators must scientifically justify the use of novel housing, metabolic cages and wire-bottom