

UCAR Policy on NIH Noncompliance: Overcrowded Rodent Cage

Updated and Approved by UCAR 6/21/23

NIH requires that PHS assured institutions comply with all standards of the NIH *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Exemptions to the *Guide* must be scientifically justified by the Principal Investigator and approved by UCAR.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to describe a UCAR approved process for correcting

Standard: The *Guide's* housing specifications are documented in the UCAR Rodent Density policy. ([Mouse Cage Density](#), [Rat Cage Density](#))

Prevention: UCAR policy requires that all investigators and staff directly involved with managing breeding colonies of rodents of UCAR approval of the protocol or modification to add personnel. To address the immediate welfare risk posed by breeding cages containing more than one litter, vivarium animal care staff will separate all animals that are old/large enough to be weaned into a single cage upon identifying the overcrowded cage. The lab will be notified of this action by e-mail and is responsible for sexing and separating the weanlings.

Corrective Actions for Noncompliance: