

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Breeding Rodents at UNTHSC		
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A. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. It is the responsibility for the Principal Investigator (PI) to submit a breeding attachment for IACUC review and approval before breeding animals at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.
- b. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to review all breeding requests submitted.

B. PROCEDURES

a. SEEK APPROVAL

- i. The PI must either submit a breeding attachment with a new protocol, or submit a breeding attachment with an amendment for an existing protocol.

b. BREEDING COUNTS

- i. PIs and their staff are responsible for monitoring the number of rodents used for breeding and their offspring, including pups born from purchased timed pregnant animals.
- ii. The PI or their staff are responsible for recording information on the birth of animals the day that they are first discovered.
- iii. Investigators are responsible for submitting their breeding numbers at least monthly to the DLAM email box (HSCDLAM.Office@unthsc.edu). The email to DLAM should include at minimum the following information:
 - 1. Investigator
 - 2. Protocol Number
 - 3. Species
 - 4. Strain/Genotype
 - 5. Date of birth (DOB)
 - 6. Number of pups born
- iv. The PI may determine the best format for communicating this information in an email. The form that was once provided in the rooms are available as a template for collecting information if the investigator does not already have a method in place for collecting the information.
- v. All pups produced must be counted in the animal numbers. This includes pups used before weaning and pups that, for scientific reasons, cannot be used for the study. This includes pups that were euthanized. This does not include pups that have been cannibalized.

- vi. An email reminder will be sent to all investigators with an approved breeding protocol from the IACUC office before the breeding numbers are due.
- vii. All breeding numbers are due for submission by the last day of the month. All investigators who have an approved breeding protocol are expected to report numbers, even if the number to report is 0 (indicating that no pups were born that month).
- viii. Investigators who failed to report their animal numbers by the end of the month will be reported to the IACUC.

c. GENERAL BREEDING INFORMATION

- i. Colonies and strains must be approved by the IACUC before breeding may begin.
- ii. In-house breeding must be scientifically justified in the IACUC protocol. Cost is not considered a scientific justification.
- iii. Animals transferred to another investigator on their protocol must follow SOP 020, Animal Transfer Procedure, by submitting a transfer request to be approved by DLAM before the transfer takes place.
- iv. It is strongly recommended that each PI appoint a colony manager who monitors the breeding and is in charge of the colony records.
- v. Harem breeding is discouraged. For other, more effective breeding schemes please contact the DLAM Facility Manager or the Veterinarian.
- vi. The average time for weaning is 21-28 days after birth. This can vary with strain. If pups are too small to be weaned at 21 days, then a note should be placed with the cage card for DLAM staff. If there are any concerns about weaning, contact DLAM staff.

