**H. BREEDING ANIMALS AT UNTHSC**

**1. Animal Breeding**

Approval for animal breeding at UNTHSC must be regulated by submitting a breeding attachment with a new protocol submission or by submitting the breeding attachment with an amendment for an existing protocol.

**2. Breeding Counts**

Investigators are responsible for monitoring the number of animals used for breeding and their offspring. Investigators must submit a breeding summary quarterly to the DLAM Compliance and Quality Coordinator. Required information includes: Species and strain names, number of mating pairs, date of birth, number of pups used before birth or weaned. The Quarterly Breeding Report form (found on the DLAM and IACUC website) can be used for tracking purposes. Investigators may use their forms as long as all of the above information is captured.

Please remember that all pups produced must be counted in your animal numbers. This includes pups used before weaning and pups that, for scientific reasons, cannot be used for the study.

The quarterly reports will follow the university quarters and must be submitted no later than 14 days after the end of the quarter. The quarters are as follows:

1st Quarter: September – November

2nd Quarter: December – February

3rd Quarter: March – May

4th Quarter: June - August

**3. General Breeding Information**

a. Colonies and strains must be approved by the IACUC before breeding may begin.

b. In-house breeding must be scientifically justified in the IACUC protocol. Cost is not considered a scientific justification.

c. Animals transferred to another investigator must be accounted for. Transfer requests should be given to the DLAM Compliance and Quality Assurance Coordinator before the transfers can take place.

d. It is highly recommended that each PI appoint a colony manager who monitors the breeding and is in charge of the colony records.

e. Harem breeding is highly discouraged. For other, more effective breeding schemes please contact the DLAM Facility Manager or the Veterinarian.

f. The average time for weaning is 21 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.