

DLAM Guidance Document

1. Document Information

Title:	Rodent Cage Population Limits		
Document Number:	DLAM-PO-0003	Revision #:	01
Effective Date:	12/15/2024	Expires:	12/15/2027
DLAM Director or Designee	[REDACTED]		
Related Information			
Related Documents:	<i>SOP-0212(E) How to Separate Overcrowded Cages</i>		
Related Regulations:	<i>Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals</i>		

2. Purpose

This Guidance Document defines the parameters for rodent cage population limits (maximum # of rodents per cage) for mice and rats housed in DLAM and in Study Areas at UCLA.

3. Guidance

Acceptable numbers of mice and rats per cage are provided in Tables 1-3.

Laboratory personnel in PI-Access facilities are expected to regularly monitor the cage population of all cages within their colony and make adjustments accordingly to maintain compliance with this guidance at all times.

For ARC-Approved exemptions, DLAM staff may receive documentation from PI's indicating the exemptions for display in animal rooms or on the door. An ARC exemption may include extended wean permission, which allows pups to remain with their dam longer than twenty-one (21) days. An extended weaning period note is posted by the ACS supervisor in the room or on the door to inform DLAM staff.

DLAM staff perform required cage separation services for a fee without notice to the lab to maintain all cages in cage population compliance.

Overcrowded cages as determined by Tables 1-3, are separated by DLAM staff if litters twenty-two (22) days or older are found still housed with their dam and without an extended wean exception in place.

Table 1: Mice

CAGE TYPE (Floor space)	Acceptable # of adult mice (post-weaning age) per cage	Acceptable # of breeding mice per cage	Acceptable # of adults + litter(s) per cage
Standard Shoe Box Cage (60in ²)	4 adults ≤ 50grams 3 adults 51 to 100grams >100grams: consult veterinary staff	3 females + 1 male	2 adults + 1 litter* (*up to 14 pups, all born within 4 days of each other)
Ventilated Cage (75 - 81in ²)	5 adults ≤ 50grams 4 adults 51 to 100grams	4 females + 1 male	2 adults + 1 litter* (*up to 14 pups, all born within 4 days of each other)

DLAM Guidance Document

	>100grams: consult veterinary staff		
Ventilated Cage / 750 Style / used as Static cage (75 - 81in ²)	5 adults ≤ 50grams 4 adults 51 to 100grams >100grams: consult veterinary staff	4 females + 1 male	2 adults + 1 litter* (*up to 14 pups, all born within 4 days of each other)
Ventilated Cage / smaller Allentown (71.5 in ²) (located in [REDACTED] only)	4 adults ≤ 50grams 3 adults 51 to 100grams >100grams: consult veterinary staff	3 females + 1 male	2 adults + 1 litter* (*up to 14 pups, all born within 4 days of each other)

Table 2: Rats

Acceptable # of adult rats per Rat Microisolator and IVC cage (141 to 144 in ² floor space)	Rat weight	Space allocation per rat Non-Standard rat cage
8	<100 grams	17 in ² /rat
6	101-200 grams	23 in ² /rat
4	201-300 grams	29 in ² /rat
3	301-400 grams	40 in ² /rat
2	401-500 grams	60 in ² /rat
1	> 500 grams	> 70 in ² /rat

Table 3: Breeding Rats

CAGE TYPE	Acceptable # of breeding rats per cage	Acceptable # of rat adults + litters per cage
Microisolator and IVC cage (141 to 144 in² floor space)	1 female + 1 male	1 dam + 1 litter

4. Brief History

SOP-0249 is being retired. The information will remain in this guidance document.