



<b>Animal Enrichment – Standard Operation Procedures</b>			
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## 1. Overview

### Purpose

The Drexel University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) established this procedure to ensure that all animals housed in the animal facility receive appropriate environmental enrichment. Environmental enrichment procedures are used to enhance physical and psychological well-being by providing structures and resources promoting species specific behaviors. Enrichment should be used in consideration of the physical and social needs of the animal and is the default for housing animals at Drexel.

## 2. Procedures

Unless otherwise stated by the Principal Investigator in the IACUC protocol, all animals will be provided with at least one of following types of enrichment or an equivalent structure or resource encouraging species-typical behavior. Social housing for social species is considered the default unless contraindicated by research, medical, or species-specific needs.

### 2.1 Rats and Mice

- Nesting material
- Paper/plastic tubes
- Running wheels
- Paper/plastic huts
- Plastic shelter igloo
- Nutritional food treats
- Wood for gnawing
- Group housing

#### 2.1.1 Exceptions

- The Guide's recommended minimum space requirements for rats in groups up to 500g is 60in squared at 7in in height (The Guide: Table 3.2). Since group housing is critical for social animals, this exception will allow two rats exceeding 500g to be pair housed in the ventilated caging system.

### 2.2 Pigs and Piglets

- Hanging Nyla-bones
- Balls for food treats
- Radios in the rooms to provide background sound
- Human interaction
- Group housing

### 2.3 Rabbits

- Stainless steel mirrors
- Shapes and/or plastic balls
- Radios in the rooms to provide background sound



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- Hay
- Wicker baskets
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Food treats
- Group or pair housing

## 2.4 Frogs

- PVC tubes
- Feeding of live food (crickets)
- Group housing

## 3. Responsibilities

### 3.1 Drexel University IACUC Responsibilities

The Drexel University IACUC and the IACUC Office are responsible for maintaining this guidance document, training, and monitoring. All exceptions to this procedure must be approved by the IACUC. For inquiries regarding these procedures, please contact the Director of Animal Welfare, a part of the Office for Research & Innovation (ORI), or the Attending Veterinarian.

### 3.2 Principal Investigator's Responsibilities

Enrichment will be provided by husbandry staff at the time of initial arrival and each time the cage is changed, or the housing unit is sanitized. For some species, efforts will be made to alternate enrichment items to provide novelty. All social species will be housed in a pair or group setting. The Investigator is responsible for notifying and obtaining approval from the IACUC if enrichment or social housing cannot be provided due to scientific reasons.

## 4. Revisions

Edition 001/Effective Date: 04/2012 – Original Document

Edition 001/Review Date: 03/2018 -- Original Document

Edition 001/Review Date: 09/2021 -- Original Document

Edition 002/Revision Date: 9/11/2024 and Effective Date: 9/17/2024 – Revised Document.

- Updated formatting to new template.
- Removed Cat enrichment
- Section 2.3 – added wicker baskets

Edition 003/Review and Revision Date: 11/13/2024 and Effective Date: 11/18/2024 – Revised Document.

- 2.1.1. Addition of exception of housing two rats over 500g in standard ventilated caging system.