

# Drexel University Animal Care and Use Committee Policy for Animal Enrichment

**Objective:** The Drexel University Animal Care and Use Committee established this policy to ensure that all animals housed in the animal facility receive appropriate environmental enrichment. Environmental enrichment procedures are utilized with the goal of enhancing physical and psychological well-being by providing structures and resources which promote species specific behaviors. Enrichment should be used in consideration of the physical and social needs of the animal.

**Responsibility:** 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 as the default. The Investigator is responsible for notifying and obtaining approval from the IACUC if enrichment or social housing cannot be provided due to scientific reasons.

## **Procedures:**

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

Rats and Mice– Nesting material, paper/plastic tubes, running wheels, paper/plastic huts, plastic shelter igloo, nutritional food treats, wood for gnawing. Group housing.

Pigs and Piglets – Hanging Nyla-bones and balls and food treats. Radios in the rooms to provide background sound. Human interaction. Group housing.

Cats – scratching post, balls, stuffed toys, sleeping mats, resting perch, food treats. Human interaction. Radio in the rooms to provide background sound. Group housing.

Rabbits – Stainless steel mirrors, shapes and/or plastic balls. Radios in the rooms to provide background sound. Hay. Fresh fruits and vegetables and food treats. Group or pair housing.

Frogs – PVC tubes. Group housing.

Last review date: March 2018

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