

Institutional Animal Care & Use Program - UTEP	
Title: Overcrowding Cages ⁱ	
Policy#: 013	Date in Effect: 11 December 2014
Version #: C	Rev Date: 23 March 2020
In Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescinded <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Rescinded:

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all personnel involved in the care and use of animals at UTEP to abide by and enforce this policy. Exceptions to this Policy must be approved by the IACUC. Principal Investigators (PI) are responsible for training lab personnel and ensuring breeding animals are monitored daily. Animal Care staff are responsible for proper veterinary care during daily routine checks.

B) APPLICATION

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with the “Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” and UTEP’s IACUC requirements, as they apply to overcrowding of rodents cages. The housing of rodents must not exceed a density greater than what is recommended by the “Guide” unless approved by the IACUC in the respective protocol.

C) DEFINITIONS:

- 1) **LARC:** Laboratory Animal Resources Center
- 2) **OC:** Overcrowded Cage

D) REFERENCES

[Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 2011, Table 3.2](#)

<<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-Care-and-Use-of-Laboratory-Animals.pdf#page=83>>

E) PROCEDURES

- 1) LARC personnel will notify PI/lab personnel of an OC by placing a tag on the cage. LARC will strive to send an e-mail about the OC to the PI/lab personnel and the IACUC office. PI/lab personnel must correct the OC within 48hours.
- 2) If LARC personnel separates the animals, whether for health/welfare concerns or at the end of the 2 day grace period, the PI will be charged \$25 per cage.
 - \$25 for each new cage set up LARC uses to separate animals
- 3) LARC assumes no liability in the maintenance of research data.

- 4) These fees will be added to the monthly *per diem* billing.
- 5) For breeding colonies, the number of animals separated into newly generated cages to remedy overcrowding will be added to the applicable protocol's census at the time new cages are generated.
 - a) If the new cages (actual number of animals) cause the protocol to exceed its IACUC approved animal use number, the excess animals will be transferred to the *LARC Holding Protocol* until the Investigator remedies this situation.
 - b) Animals transferred to the *LARC Holding Protocol* may not be used, handled or manipulated without the consent of the Attending Veterinarian or LARC Facility Manager, and LARC will not assume responsibility for procuring or recording experimental data. Per diems are still charged to the PI during this holding period.
- 6) For continued overcrowding incidents, the IACUC will be notified and the investigator will be subject to remedial actions as deemed necessary.

ⁱ Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), LARC FACILITY POLICY