

Institutional Animal Care & Use Program - UTEP		
Title: Housing Recommendations		
Policy#: 013	Date in Effect: 11 December 2014	
Version #: D	Rev Date: 28 April 2025	
In Effect ☒ Rescinded ☐	Date Rescinded:	

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all personnel using animals at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to abide by this policy. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) before implementation.

B) APPLICATION

The purpose of this policy is to list the minimum space housing recommendations for laboratory animals provided by the *Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (the *Guide*, NRC 2011). The number of laboratory animals housed must not exceed a density greater than is recommended by the *Guide*, unless approved by the IACUC in the respective protocol.

C) POLICY

Compliance with the following guidelines is required unless written exception has been approved by the UTEP IACUC on the grounds of accomplishing scientific objectives.

Deviations from this policy must be discussed with the Attending Veterinarian (AV). NOTE: For animals that are not listed below, contact the AV.

Table 2. For standard caging used at UTEP, these recommendations translate into the following examples

Animal/Cage Type	Cage Size (in²)*	Maximum Number of Animals
Small mouse static microisolator cage	67	5 mice <25g
		4 adult mice ≥25g
		2 adult mice with one unweaned litter
Small mouse ventilated cage	77	6 mice <25g

Animal/Cage Type	Cage Size (in²)*	Maximum Number of Animals
		5 mice $\geq$ 25g
		2 adult mice with one unweaned litter
Large mouse static	144	11 mice <25g
Rat microisolator	143	6 rats <200g
		4 rats <300g
		3 rats <400g
		2 rats $\geq$ 400g
		1 adult rat with one unweaned litter
Rat ventilated cage	140	6 rats <200g
		4 rats <300g
		3 rats <400g
		2 rats $\geq$ 400g
		1 adult rat with one unweaned litter

*Cage size determined by measuring length and width of a cage at the level of the surface of the bedding.

Table 3. Space recommendations for aquatic species (the Guide, p. 83)

Animal	Weight (kg)	Enclosure/water requirements	Max # of animals per Enclosure
Zebrafish*	NA	5 adult fish per L water 20 eggs or larvae per 100 mL	Varies by volume of enclosure