

<b>Institutional Animal Care &amp; Use Program - UTEP</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Placement of Feed on Cage Bottoms	
<b>Policy#:</b> 001	<b>Date in Effect:</b> 26 September 2014
<b>Version #:</b> C	<b>Rev Date:</b> 22 January 2024
<b>In Effect</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rescinded</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date Rescinded:</b>

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all personnel using animals at UTEP to abide by this policy. In addition, it will be the PI's responsibility to follow correct methods for having and indicating why feed will be placed on the bottom of the cage. If food is found on the floor cage and not in designated feeder, replacement of feed is required.

B) APPLICATION

This policy applies to all animals housed in cages used in research and teaching at UTEP.

C) REFERENCES

1) *"The Guide for the Care and Use Laboratory Animals"* (Guide) 8<sup>th</sup> edition (2011).

D) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1) *The Guide* states:

- a) *Feeders should be designed and placed to allow easy access to food and to minimize contamination with urine and feces, and maintained in good condition (P. 66).*
- b) *Food animals should be fed palatable, uncontaminated diets that meet their nutritional and behavioral needs at least daily, or according to their particular requirements, unless the protocol in which they are being used requires otherwise (P. 65).*

- 2) The IACUC's interpretation of the Guide is that to minimize contamination, feed/supplement should not be placed directly on the bedding of cage bottom, unless an exception has been made on the protocol.
- 3) Type and kind of supplemental material must be stated and approved in the protocol by the IACUC or by other methods approved by the IACUC.
- 4) If feed/supplement needs to be placed on the cage bottom, it is to be placed in a

container that will act as a barrier between the bedding on the cage floor.

- 5) Exceptions to this policy must be approved in the protocol by the IACUC or by the Attending Veterinarian if it is for clinical purposes.

#### E) PROCEDURES

- 1) Feed or Supplement should not be placed directly on cage floor. *See figure 1.*



*figure 1*

- 2) Feed or supplement should be placed in a container before placed on the cage

floor.

- a) Commercially produced gel supplements come in a plastic dish that serves as a barrier to the bedding of cage. *See figure 2*



*figure 2*

- b) If not using the entire gel supplement cup, smaller aliquots can be placed in Petri dish or a non-chewable container. *See figure 3*



*figure 3*

- c) Dry feed should be placed on a Petri dish or a non-chewable container. See *figure 4 and 5*



*figure 4*



*figure 5*

<b>Review History</b>	
<b>Revision Version:</b>	<b>Revision Date:</b>
A	26 September 2014
B	18 November 2019
C	22 January 2024