

<b>Institutional Animal Care &amp; Use Program - UTEP</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Housing Recommendations	
<b>Policy#:</b> 013	<b>Date in Effect:</b> 11 December 2014
<b>Version #:</b> D	<b>Rev Date:</b> 28 April 2025
<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Rescinded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Date Rescinded: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 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**

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

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

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