

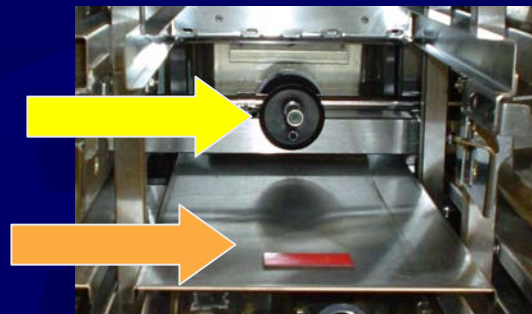
Ventilated Rack Training

Helpful Tips and Information On Ventilated Caging

Presented By: The ULAM Staff Trainers

Definitions

- **Lixit**: a stainless steel tube used as a mouthpiece where the water source leading into the cage allows free access to water.
- **Ventilated microisolator cage**: #1 size ventilated cage with a rear feeder and an external water bottle MI top.
- **Magnet**: colored rectangular magnet used to signify cage was removed by the lab and will be returning the next day.



Advantages of Ventilated Caging vs. Static Caging

- Reduced per diem
- Ventilated cage(s) weigh ~1/2 pound less than static cage(s)
- Ventilated cage(s) require less cage change's in comparison to static cage(s)
- Less changing minimizes the number of disturbances to the animal(s) environment
- More animals can be housed in the same amount of floor space
- Ventilated rack(s) cage capacity may range from 108 to 140 cages
- 7 shelf static rack cage maximum capacity is 98 cages
- Ventilated rack(s) provide an individual air exchange and constant access to water per each cage

Animal Room Supplies

- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
- Ulam supply box
- Acetate box
- Deactivation cage card box
- Breeding sheets with bar code sticker sheets
- Food barrel-5001 or 5008
- Clean lixit labeled box
- Dirty lixit labeled box
- Spor-Klenz Dip box
- Clidox squirt or spray bottle
- Complete MI set-ups
- Water bottles



Ventilated Cage Concerns

- Dehydrations
- Flooded cages
- Undocked cages
- Missing lixit in spaces
- Acetating newly weaned cages



Dehydrations: What to do?

Presents with:

- ✓ Hunched posture
- ✓ Listless
- ✓ Scruffy
- ✓ Sunken stomach
- ✓ Low urine and feces output



Do the following:

- 1) Check lixit
- 2) Generate ATR
- 3) Place water bottle
- 4) Yellow acetate
example "H₂O bottle 5 days, 12/20-12/24"
- 5) Pull water bottle, same yellow acetate "check lixit 5 days, 12/25-12/29"

Flooded Cage: What to do?

- ✓ Flooded-standing water in cage
- 1) Place mice in clean, dry cage with envirodry on sink side
- 2) Add water bottle
- 3) Replace leaky lixit
- 4) Label and give lixit to area supervisor
- 5) Warm up a heating pad
- 6) Place cage on pad
- 7) Obtain help from ULAM employee or vet tech if animals are moribund or hypothermic

Undocked Cages

- ✓ Ensure lixit penetrates the back of cage
- ✓ Ensure cage is pushed all the way into the appropriate slot and latched in position.



Procedures for weaning pups

- 1) Assign appropriate bar code sticker, record information on breeding sheet.
- 2) Record DOB, wean date, strain, lab contact and telephone number on cage card.
- 3) Place yellow acetate over the cage card stating “check lixit for 5 days” record begin and end dates, eg. 12/20/04 – 12/24/04.
- 4) Place 5001 or 5008 chow in rear feeder. Fill the rear feeder to the top so weanling mice do not get trapped inside the top of the feeder.

Procedures for weaning pups continued

- 5) Determine if pups can access the food and lixit. If not, place pellets of chow on cage floor and add a water bottle. Place a yellow acetate “H2O Bottle with start and end date”.
- 6) Place acetated cage into a clean empty space where a complete set-up and lixit are located.
- 7) If there is not available space on racks, consult the area supervisor to discuss extra space alternatives.

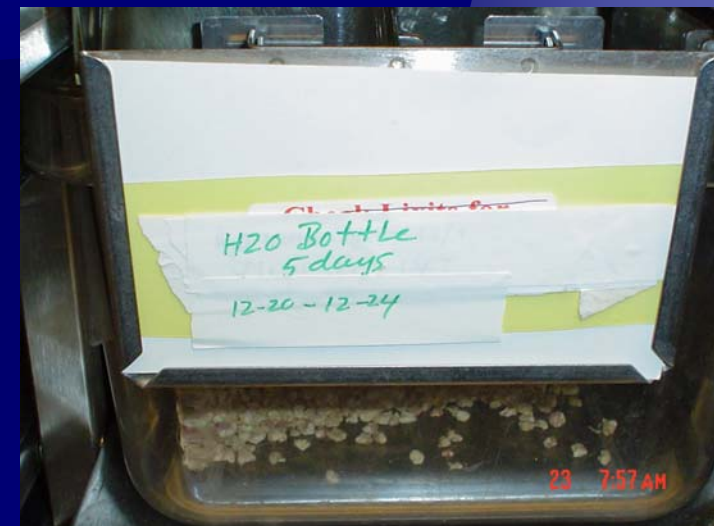
Empty space without magnet

- 1) Remove and place the dirty lixit into the appropriate labeled box
- 2) Spray the space off with clidox
- 3) Add a clean lixit into the space
- 4) Check the lixit to ensure it is functioning and water comes out
- 5) Place the cage into clean space



Water bottles: When & Why?

- PI request with an exception explaining why necessary. Note: there are weekly technical time charges accrued based upon either a 1/2 rack (<70)=1 hour; full rack (>70)= 2 hour.
- Dehydrations
- Runted or strain related situations where mice are unable to use lixit
- Some mice play with the lixit



General rack information

- Taped off spaces=**NO LIXITS!**
- Clean lixits stored in a labeled box on top of hood.
- Clean set-ups located on rack or on top of hood.
- Always double check that cages are properly docked with visible lixit in the space





Questions?

