

 University of Michigan Medical School	<h1 style="margin: 0;">ULAM</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine</p>	Standard Operating Procedure
Title: Maximum Housing Densities for Mouse Cages		
Responsible Division: Husbandry	Contact: Hamlin, Haist, Katz	
Date: 16 April 2007	Version: 3	Page 1

A. Maximum mouse housing densities for #1 shoebox cage (6"x10"x5"):

- Up to 4 adult mice (over 25 grams)
- Up to 5 weaned mice (15-25 grams)
- Up to 7 weaned mice (10-15 grams only) [Note: This can occur when labs separate the weanlings; ULAM technicians are to always separate to a maximum of 5 per cage]
- 2 adults with up to 15 pups (if more than 15 pups, must separate when oldest pups are 10 days old*).
- 3 adults with up to 9 pups (if more than 9 pups, must separate when oldest pups are 10 days old*).

* ULAM will tag these cages on day 10 and separate on day 11.

B. Procedures for separating mouse cages: When an overcrowded cage is noted (needing to either be separated due to an overcrowd because the population exceeds the cage capacity guidelines or needs to be weaned because the pups in that cage have reached 21 days of age):

- 1) ULAM will place a blue acetate over the cage card on each overcrowded cage. The blue acetate will be dated on the day of the overcrowd.
- 2) If the Lab personnel do not separate the cage within one business day, ULAM will separate the cage free of charge on the following business day.
 - a) A business day is defined as any day during the week beginning Monday through Friday, including Thanksgiving Day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and the 4 season days recognized by the University between Christmas and New Years. Exclusions to what ULAM constitutes as a business day are as follows: University holiday(s) recognized on either a Friday or Monday, resulting in a 3-day weekend where ULAM utilizes a skeleton staff.
- 3) The separation procedure is as follows:
 - a) ULAM will separate animals by gender, males from females into different cages, with no more than 5 weanlings placed per cage. Blue cage cards represent male weanlings; Pink cards represent females; Yellow cards represent a breeding cage.
 - b) ULAM will transfer all of the pertinent information from the original overcrowded cage card to the new cage card(s). A cage ID to be used for tracking purposes within breeding colony cages is strongly recommended.
 - c) If there is not a cage ID on the original cage card, the ULAM technician will use the barcode number from the original cage as the cage ID for the new cages.
 - d) If breeding cage(s) are yellow acetated to receive 5008, all weanling cages will be fed 5001 chow. If breeding cage(s) are acetated to receive any chow other than ULAM's standard 5001 or 5008 chow (there must be an Exception posted), all weanling cages will be fed 5001 chow unless the posted Exception states otherwise.
- 4) If you do not want ULAM to separate your cages please refer to the exception portion of the memo regarding "ULAM's Policy on Overcrowded Rodent Cages" or contact a ULAM husbandry supervisor.