

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-4433**
Service: **Research**
Operating Section: **Husbandry**
Unit: **CMF**
Title: **Environmental Enrichment for Rodents**



Purpose:

To describe the procedures for enriching the primary enclosure of rodents

Procedure:

- 1) Rodents will be group housed whenever possible. Any animals showing aggressive behavior will be separated.
- 2) Post-surgical animals may be individually housed for the well-being of the animal.
- 3) Single housed animals will be provided with at least one additional enrichment device.
- 4) When in agreement with the objectives of the protocol, the structural and social environments of rodents will be enhanced to encourage species-typical behavior, improve animal well-being, and prevent maladaptive behaviors.
- 5) Enrichment devices that may be used in the primary enclosures of rodents including but not limited to mouse igloo, mouse hut, pup tents, rodent retreats, fast-trac, mouse and rat tunnels, rodent crawl balls, PVC pipe, nest-lets, autoclaved wood gnawing blocks, paper huts, Galileo bones, gumabones, nylabones, dumbbells, and a universal chain assembly.
- 6) Non-disposable enrichment devices will be rotated and sanitized when complete cage change-outs occur, or every two weeks.
- 7) If a device's physical integrity is questioned, the use of that device will be discontinued immediately. All devices are evaluated during change-outs to ensure they are free of sharp edges, defects, cracks, or other evidence of diminished integrity, disposed of, and replaced with a similar device if such evidence is found.

APPROVALS

Responsible Official Signature 	Date 03/15/2019		
QA Signature 	Date 03/15/2019		
Version #3	Effective Date	Supersedes #2	Original Date 10/30/10