

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-4603**

Service: **Research**

Operating Section: **Husbandry**

Unit: **CMF**

Title: **Pair Housing Macaques**

Purpose: The steps that will be used to attempt to pair house macaques in order to provide for the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates (NHPs).

Procedure:



- 1) To the extent possible, all nonhuman primates (NHPs) are pair housed. Animals specifically exempted from this policy are those in quarantine, isolation and in IACUC-approved scientific protocols where a pair housing exception is justified.
- 2) The health status of potential pairs is evaluated prior to pairing. All animals will be fed prior to pair housing introduction sessions.
- 3) The behavior of the primates and whether or not there are any established dominance relationships in the housing room will be evaluated for one month prior to pairing.
- 4) Monkeys to be paired are moved (if necessary) to a clean double cage separated by a mesh slide through which they can observe one another but not reach hands or fingers in the partner's cage. They remain this way for a minimum of two weeks, and are observed for signs of aggression or incompatibility. The next step is the use of a larger mesh (grooming) divider for another two weeks.
- 5) A veterinarian must approve the pairing and must be present while the technician attempts to pair the animals. To pair the animals, the larger mesh (grooming divider) is installed. The CMF staff remotely observes the responses of each animal. This lasts 3-4 weeks.
- 6) If the animals show aggressive behavior at this time, they are separated before serious injuries occur. The CMF staff might try to pair these animals again if the veterinarians think the pair might be compatible.
- 7) If the monkeys appear compatible after three to four weeks of observations, the animals are put in a neutral enclosure. The CMF staff remotely observes the animals until they feel the pair has displayed suitable signs of compatibility (at least 30 minutes). The CMF staff will monitor the pair throughout the day. A visual slide will be replaced at night and on weekends and holidays for at least the first month.
- 8) The animals will be designated as a new pairing, and the designation will be left there until the

pairing is successful.

- 9) CMF staff provide feedback to the veterinarian periodically on the pairs. If potential problems with incompatibility are noted (e.g., through reports of aggression, or if one or both partners exhibit weight loss) the veterinary staff carefully observes the monkeys. If necessary, the pair will be separated.
- 10) A pair that does not seem completely compatible to the veterinary staff may be tried as a "grooming contact" pair. A grooming contact pair is formed by placing a grooming contact slide (a divider consisting of bars wide enough to permit grooming) between the cages, and following the same procedure outlined above. Grooming contact slides may also be used for pairs if requested by investigators or veterinary staff (e.g., when one animal is observed to be losing weight).
- 11) If pairs need to be temporarily separated, it will be noted in the records. The cage will be identified with the reason for separation and the date the monkeys can be re-united. CMF staff, under the supervision of a veterinarian, will re-unite the separated pairs. If the pairs have been separated for more than one month the pair will be re-united beginning at Step 4 of this protocol.
- 12) The CMF staff documents all pairs attempted, formed, and separated, with reasons for pair breakup in the individual animal records.

Comments:

APPROVALS

Responsible Official Signature		Date	
		6/6/19	
QA Signature		Date	
		06/14/2019	
Version #2	Effective Date	Supersedes #1	Original Date