

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO  
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE**

**Policy on Mouse Breeding**

Please refer to Policy 6.03 *Policy and Guidelines on Breeding Colonies* for other general information.

With an Animal Use Protocol that includes approval for a Breeding Colony, the following husbandry practices may be selected by investigators housing animals in a standard mouse shoebox cage (~75 square inches).

| <b>Breeding adult mice</b> | <b>Maximum wean date of litter</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Two adults                 | 21 days                            |  |
| One female (male removed)  | 28 days                            | If a 2 <sup>nd</sup> litter is born, the 1 <sup>st</sup> litter must be weaned within 2 days of birth.   |
| Multiple females, one male | 21 days                            | The number of adults must be reduced to 2 within 7 days of birth of a 1 <sup>st</sup> litter; birth of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> litter requires separation of litters within 2 days of birth. |

Exceptions to these husbandry practices (e.g., use of non-standard size caging, altered wean dates etc) must be described in the Animal Use Protocol and will be considered for approval by the IACUC on a case-by-case basis. A scientific justification for the exception must be provided.

It is the responsibility of laboratory staff to monitor and manage colonies with sufficient frequency to insure compliance with these policies, including determination of the day of birth. Documentation of date of birth must be recorded on the cage.

Note:

1. Although pups with a single dam may be weaned as late as 28 days, tail clipping after 21 days of age requires anesthesia.