



Policy Statement #17–12 Environmental Enrichment Faculty of Science, Mahidol University–Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (MUSC–IACUC)

Animals housed at MUSC-CAF will be provided with species-appropriate enrichment to enhance animal well-being and to facilitate the expression of species-typical behavior. Studies have shown that appropriate enrichment may contribute to higher test sensitivity and reduced animal use

Mice and rats:

1. Mice and rats will be pair-or group-housed when space is available, animals are compatible, and research aims do not limit that type of housing.
2. Mice and rats will be provided with an approved type of nesting material in addition to the regular bedding to foster species-specific behaviors.
3. Mice and rats may also be provided with a hut, tube, igloo, or other approved device to foster species-specific behaviors.
4. Consultation with the PI is necessary prior to modifying the existing care or interaction with the research animal, to prevent any untoward effects upon the research outcomes.
5. Requests to exempt mice/rats from enrichment, interaction, or social housing must be provided in writing from the principal investigator and be approved by the IACUC.

Rabbits:

1. Rabbits are suggested to be group-housed or have social experience.
2. Rabbits may receive playtime in an approved play pen in a designated location when the research design is permitted.
3. Consultation with the PI is necessary prior to modifying the existing care or interaction with the research animal, to prevent any untoward effects upon the research outcomes.
4. Food enrichment may be provided at least every two weeks.
5. Requests to exempt rabbits from receiving enrichment, interaction, treats, play-time, or social housing must be provided in writing from the principal investigator and be approved by the IACUC.