

MOUSE HOUSING & WEANING SOP

SMALL BOX HOUSING

MAXIMUM 5 females or 4 males, or 1 litter + 2 adults

ANIMAL COMBINATION	ACTION NEEDED BY INVESTIGATOR (OR RAR STAFF)
Up to 5* females over 21 days old OR 4* males over 21 days old	None. * However, if there are fighting injuries, the mice are crowded & need to be separated
2 adult mice + 1 litter less than 21 days old	None, until pups need to be weaned
1 female + 1 male	None, until the future litter needs to be weaned
2 females + 1 male	Separate 1 pregnant female into 1 other cage before any pups are born if possible.
3 females + 1 male	Place each pregnant female into separate cage before pups are born if possible.
Any other combination exceeding the above	Separate mice as soon as possible

COLONY (LARGE) BOX HOUSING

MAXIMUM 2 litters + 3 adults

ANIMAL COMBINATION	ACTION NEEDED BY INVESTIGATOR (OR RAR STAFF)
3 adult mice + 1-2 litters less than 28 days old	None, until pups need to be weaned
1-2 females + 1 male	None, until the future litters need to be weaned
3-5 females + 1 male	Leave two females with the male in the colony cage, but separate the extra pregnant females into other cages <i>before</i> any pups are born
Any other combination exceeding the above	Separate mice as soon as possible

WEANING & SEPARATING - Mice can be weaned starting at 21 days old (28 days for some transgenic strains with prior RAR approval)

1. When you notice overcrowding, flag the cage with a Please Wean/Separate card, and write the due date on the card (see “Deadline to Give” below).
2. **Contact the investigator*** advise that you will separate the mice if it is not done by the deadline and initial the Please Wean card that the PI was contacted.

SITUATION	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (BY INVESTIGATOR OR YOU)	DEADLINE TO GIVE
Overcrowded (see above)	Separate mice into smaller groups	1 weekday
Fighting	Separate wounded mice from healthy animals	RAR separates immediately & notifies investigators.
Pups > 21 days and < 26 days	Wean pups	2-3 weekdays
2 litters in small cage	Separate older litter (plus 1 mom if too young to wean)	1-3 days, depending on pup size
Pups over 28 days, or pups with visibly pregnant female	Wean pups as soon as possible	1 weekday

If mice have not been weaned or separated when they’re due, separate them yourself. Separate litters by sex and complete a cage card for each box. If you are unsure how to do it, contact a supervisor or veterinary technician. Bill for your time in 15 minute increments.

* For colonies with ongoing issues, the vet may choose to inform the PI that RAR will stop notifying but instead will just separate as needed & bill accordingly.