Georgia State University
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

It is the responsibility of the Georgia State University (GSU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure judicious and humane use of animals used in its teaching and research programs that is consistent with federal requirements.*

Policy on Overcrowded Cages

Cages are considered overcrowded either because litters need to be weaned or there are too many post-weanling and/or adults in one cage. Please note the maximum numbers of mice housed per cage are as follows:

- 5 adult mice
- Pair housed mice (1 female, 1 male): unrestricted number of pups
- Breeding trios (2 females, 1 male): maximum of 12 pups per cage

If a cage is overcrowded, it will be flagged with a red “Overcrowded Cage” card and an email notification will be sent to the animal user. The animal user will then have 48 hours to resolve the overcrowded cage. If the overcrowded cage is not corrected within 48 hours, the DAR animal care technician will separate animals into appropriate cages (a technician fee will apply).

Please note that while it is the Division of Animal Resources (DAR) responsibility to correct overcrowding, it is advised not to rely upon DAR as animal users have the best knowledge of genotyping and pedigree information which is vital.

These maximum numbers of mice per cage are based on recommendations from the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” (The Guide). Exemptions to this policy are permitted only upon specific IACUC review and approval. If exemptions apply, please note it is the responsibility of the animal user to detail the exemption in the “Special Housing or Husbandry Requirements” section of the “Animal Requisition” form.

Pertinent Regulations*
U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training
Public Health Service Policy
Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and AWA Regulations

IACUC Approval Date: 12/18/2017
Signature IACUC Chair:
Revision Dates: