

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNT Health	
Title: Breeding Rodents at UNTHSC			
Document #: 015	Version #: 06		
Approved by IACUC Date: February 25, 2025			

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The intent of this SOP is to serve as a guidance for capturing numbers of animals born in house, whether through breeding at UNT Health, or purchasing timed pregnant animals.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to include breeding in their animal care and use protocol, by completing the breeding section of the protocol form. This section will also need to be completed for investigators wishing to purchase timed pregnant animals. IACUC review and approval for breeding or timed pregnant animals must be received before breeding or purchasing timed pregnant animals at UNT Health.
- b. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to review all breeding forms submitted.

C. PROCEDURES

- a. **SEEK APPROVAL**
 - i. To add breeding or timed pregnant animals to a new protocol, the PI must complete the breeding section on the protocol form.
 - ii. To add breeding or timed pregnant animals to an existing protocol, the PI must submit an amendment and provide information listed in the Breeding Section of the original protocol.
- b. **BREEDING COUNTS**
 - i. PIs and their lab members are responsible for monitoring the number of rodents used for breeding and their offspring, including pups born from purchased timed pregnant animals.
 - ii. The PI or their lab members are responsible for recording information on the birth of animals the day that they are first discovered.
 - iii. The DLAM office will send an email reminder to all investigators with an approved breeding protocol before the breeding numbers are due.
 - iv. Investigators are responsible for submitting their breeding numbers at least monthly to the DLAM email box (DLAM@unhealth.edu). The PI may determine the best format for communicating this information in an email, however the email to DLAM should include at minimum the following information:
 1. Investigator
 2. Protocol Number
 3. Species
 4. Strain/Genotype
 5. Date of birth (DOB)
 6. Number of pups born

- v. All pups produced must be counted in the animal numbers. This includes pups used before weaning and pups that, for scientific reasons, cannot be used for the study. This includes pups that were euthanized. This does not include pups that have been cannibalized.
- vi. All breeding numbers are due for submission by the last day of the month. All investigators who have an approved breeding protocol are expected to report numbers, even if the number to report is 0 (indicating that no pups were born that month).
- vii. Investigators who continually fail to report their animal numbers will be reported to the IACUC.

c. GENERAL BREEDING INFORMATION

- i. Colonies and strains must be approved by the IACUC before breeding may begin.
- ii. In-house breeding must be scientifically justified in the IACUC protocol. Cost is not considered a scientific justification.
- iii. Animals transferred to another investigator's protocol must follow SOP 020, Animal Transfer Procedure, by submitting a transfer request to be approved by DLAM before the transfer takes place.
- iv. It is strongly recommended that each PI appoint a colony manager who monitors the breeding and is in charge of the colony records.
- v. Harem breeding is discouraged. For other, more effective breeding schemes please contact the DLAM Facility Manager or the Veterinarian.
- vi. The average time for weaning is 21-28 days after birth, and varies by strain. If pups are too small to be weaned at 21 days, then a note should be placed with the cage card for DLAM staff. If there are any concerns about weaning, contact DLAM staff.

D. REFERENCES

- a. [IACUC SOP 020: Animal Transfer Procedures](#)