

SOP #: 310.02Title: SOP - Environmental Enrichment

Approvals:

Attending Veterinarian _____

Date: 01/09/20191. Purpose

1.1 Describes the methods and practices providing Environmental Enrichment for laboratory animals housed in the Animal Facility.

2. Responsibility

2.1 ACF Personnel

3. Definitions

3.1 ACF - Animal Care Facility

4. Guidelines

4.1 General Statement: Unless otherwise requested by the Principal Investigators and approved by IACUC, all animals in the Animal Care Facility shall receive some form of environmental enrichment/social activity.

4.1.1 All mice and rats are housed in see-thru boxes.

4.1.2 All animal cages meet or exceed appropriate size standards (Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals).

4.1.3 All animals are housed with the same species and should be group housed to the greatest extent possible.

4.2 Enrichment Methods by species:

- 4.2.1 Rodents are provided with enrichment devices (Bed-r-nest, nestlets, hiding tubes, small toys, etc).
- 4.2.2 Rabbits will have at least one item of species specific manipulanda in their cage, such as:
 - 4.2.2.1 Sanitizable toys, plastic jingle balls, stainless steel rattles, nylabone bells
 - 4.2.2.2 Rabbits may be brushed to provide human interaction and reduce fur ingestion.
 - 4.2.2.3 Rabbits may receive playtime in a designated play cage. ACF personnel (husbandry and vet staff) as well as approved research personnel may provide time for human interaction as enrichment. 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.
 - 4.2.2.4 ACF personnel (husbandry and vet staff) as well as approved research personnel may provide novel treat items as enrichment if not contra-indicated by research goals. 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 outcome
 - 4.2.2.5 Food enrichment will be provided at least one time per week, such as:
 - 4.2.2.5.1 Timothy hay or Alfalfa cubes, Kale, Cabbage leaves, Fruit and Vegetables, Bunny blocks (fruit flavored), Nutra blocks
 - 4.2.2.6 Novelty of enrichment through rotation or replacement of items is considered.
- 4.2.3 Pigs will receive manipulanda (toys, plastic balls, etc.)
- 4.2.4 Ferrets: will receive appropriate plastic toys, tunnels, hammocks, etc.

5. References

- 5.1 The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th Edition (NRC 2011)

6. Revisions

- 6.1 Rev. 02 – Added pigs and ferrets.