



- **PURPOSE**

To standardize the acceptable use of and maintenance of wire-bottom caging for housing rodents

- **GUIDELINES**

Wire-bottom caging for rodents is discouraged for general use as it is more comfortable for rodents to be in contact with a solid surface.

Housing in wire-bottom caging may be justified due to the nature of some research projects, including but not limited to:

- Toxicology studies: eliminates the ingestion of bedding
- Special diets: allows for the collection of “wasted” feed
- Survival surgery: assures that bedding won’t contaminate surgical sites

Requests to house rodents in wire-bottom cages must be scientifically justified and reviewed and approved by the IACUC. Any animals housed in wire-bottom cages must be there for the minimum time possible and must be monitored for foot discomfort. Wire-bottom cages must be cleaned at least once a week unless otherwise approved by the IACUC.

Whenever possible, perforated solid bottoms should be used in place of wire bottoms for rodent cages.

- **REFERENCES, MATERIALS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th Edition, pp 51 – 52:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>