



## **A. PURPOSE**

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

## **B. 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, such as:

- 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 once a week.

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

## **C. REFERENCES, MATERIALS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals pp 51-52](#)