TITLE: Wire-Bottom Caging for Housing Rodents

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

REVIEW/REVISIONS: The IACUC will review and revise this guidance as needed.

DATE OF LAST REVISION: 3/14/2016

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
- Diabetes studies: prevents animals from laying in urine soaked bedding
- Special diets: allows for the collection of “wasted” feed
- Survival surgery: assures that bedding won’t contaminate surgical sites
- Metabolic studies: allows for collection of feces

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, as for other caging.

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

JUSTIFICATION:

The University of Arizona is registered as an animal research facility with the USDA, is PHS assured and accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC).