Title: Husbandry Care of Non-USDA covered Rodents

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for non-USDA covered rodents: mice of the genus *Mus* and rats of the genus *Rattus* purpose bred for research.

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for non-USDA covered rodents must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*). Deviations or exceptions must be approved by the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC.

III. Procedure:

**Daily (365 days a year without exception):**
- Observe each animal and check for health concerns (*Guide* pg. 112).
- Ensure adequate feed and potable water is available (*Guide* pg. 65-68).
- Record sick and dead animals and report findings to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) or designated clinical veterinarian per standard operating procedure for reporting sick or dead animals.
- Record/document minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity.
  - Temperature range for rodents is 68°F to 79°F (*Guide* pg. 44).
  - Humidity range for rodents is 30% to 70% (*Guide* pg. 44).
- Change any excessively soiled or flooded cages (*Guide* pg. 70).
- Clean and organize room, anterooms, and surrounding premises (*Guide* pg. 72).
- Record daily completion of each task, initial each task, and date the log.

**Weekly:**
- Provide clean static microisolator cages (*Guide* pg. 70).
- Provide clean catch pans for wire-floor caging (*Guide* pg. 70).
- Provide clean bottles and sipper tubes (*Guide* pg. 70).
- Clean automatic water delivery valves (i.e. lixits) at cage change (*Guide* pg. 72).

**Biweekly:**
- Provide clean individually ventilated cages (*Guide* pg. 70).
- Provide Hydropac water pouches with lixit spikes (*Guide* pg. 70).
• Clean automatic water delivery valves (i.e. lixits) at cage change (Guide pg. 72).

As needed:
• Disinfect the animal room including walls, floors, and ceilings (if possible) (Guide pg. 72).
• Remove and replace worn or damaged equipment from primary enclosures and surrounding facility (Guide pg. 72).
• Chow must be discarded after 6 months of the milling date unless manufacturer guidelines recommend a shorter or longer expiration date (Guide pg. 66).
• Clean and sanitize feed storage containers at least every 6 months (Guide pg. 67).
• Each facility will develop their own best practices with sanitization typically occurring every 6 months or whenever there is a change in species but may vary with facility.

**Environmental Enrichment:**
• Refer to the Environmental Enrichment policy (SOC 30-102).

**Facilities:**
• Temperature alarms must be installed in all rooms housing rodents (Guide pg. 143).
• Adequate ventilation must be provided for the health and comfort of the animal at all times.
  o A minimum of 10-15 fresh room air exchanges per hour shall be provided in animal housing areas (Guide pg. 46). IACUC-approved PI-maintained housing within lab spaces may be exempt.
• Floors shall be moisture-resistant, non-absorbent, impact-resistant, and relatively smooth (Guide pg. 137). Refer to Physical Plant SOC 50-102.

**Housing:**
• Whenever possible, rodents should be socially housed in compatible groups (Guide pg. 51).
• Floor space taken up by food bowls, water containers, litter boxes, and enrichment devices (e.g., novel objects, toys, foraging devices) should not be considered part of the floor space (Guide pg. 56).

• Space requirements for mice of the genus *Mus*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight (g)</th>
<th>Floor Area/Animal (in²)</th>
<th>Height (in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;25</td>
<td>≥15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female with litter</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Guide pg. 57)*
- Space requirements for rats of the genus *Rattus*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight (g)</th>
<th>Floor Area/Animal (in²)</th>
<th>Height (in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;100</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 200</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 300</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 400</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 500</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;500</td>
<td>≥70</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female with litter</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Guide pg. 57)*