WHAT IF YOU SEE …?

Follow the flowchart found in the Rodent Husbandry SOP to assess overall cage health when health checking with an Enviropak. Often, clues from the cage will indicate the health status of the mice within the cage.

Listed below are easily identifiable indicators of nesting behaviors in mice. This is neither a comprehensive nor specific list and, as such, other observations should be taken into account when assessing health status in mice.

Please contact the ULAM Training Core at ulam-trainingcore@umich.edu or (734) 763-8039 for additional assistance with identification of a healthy cage.

### NEST QUALITY
- **Good Nest**
  - Well Formed Dome
- **Poor Nest**
  - Flat/Not Well Formed

### CAGE ORGANIZATION
- **Good Cage Organization**
  - Nest is located away from urine site
- **Poor Cage Organization**
  - Nest is interspersed with soiled materials

### SOCIAL BEHAVIOR
- **Good Social Behavior**
  - Animals nesting together
- **Poor Social Behavior**
  - Animals nesting separately

### TIPS
- **Singly Housed Mouse or Weanlings**
  - Tear Enviropak in half to prevent nesting inside
- **Urine Stained and Flat Nest**
  - *Monitor closely for aggression*
- **Using Enrichment Items?**
  - *If not, monitor closely for health issues*
  - Well Formed Dome, Enviropak Integrated Into Nest

### References: Health Check SOP - Flow Chart

Last Updated 04/27/17