Maximum Housing Densities for Rat and Mouse Cages

1) Maximum mouse housing densities for a standard mouse shoebox cage:
   a) 4 mice (over 35 grams)
   b) 5 mice (\leq 35 grams)
   c) 2 adults with 1 litter, regardless of the number of pre-weanling pups.

2) Maximum rat housing densities for a standard #3 rat shoebox cage, 140 sq in:
   a) 1 rat > 500-1000 grams*
   b) 2 rats 400-499 grams
   c) 3 rats 300-399 grams
   d) 4 rats 200-299 grams
   e) 5 rats 100-200 grams
   f) 8 rats < 100 grams
   g) 1 adult rat with 1 litter of pups until weaning age

3) Maximum rat housing densities for #4 tall shoebox cage 212 sq in:
   a) 2 rats > 500 grams*
   b) 3 rats 400-499 grams
   c) 4 rats 300-399 grams
   d) 5 rats 200-299 grams
   e) 6 rats 100-199 grams
   f) 10 rats <100 grams
   g) 2 adult rats with 1 litter of pups until weaning age

4) Maximum rat housing densities for Techniplast double decker cage 155 sq in bottom, 125 sq in. upper deck totaling 280 sq in
   a) 2 rats > 500 grams*
   b) 3 rats 400-499 grams
   c) 4 rats 300-399 grams
   d) 5 rats 200-299 grams
   e) 6 rats 100-199 grams
   f) 10 rats <100 grams
   g) 2 adult rats with 1 litter of pups until weaning age

5) Maximum rat housing densities for Allentown NexGen 1800 cage, 280 sq in and T-2000 cage 310 sq in:
   a) 3 rats > 500 grams*
   b) 4 rats 400-499 grams
   c) 5 rats 300-399 grams
   d) 6 rats 200-299 grams
   e) 7 rats 100-199 grams
   f) 13 rats <100 grams
   g) 2 adult rats with 1 litter of pups until weaning age

* Larger animals may require additional space to meet the performance standards. Husbandry personnel may move adult rats to larger cages to meet performance standards.
Acceptable Adult Mouse Housing

4 Mice Per Cage if Greater than 35g

5 Mice Per Cage if Less than or equal to 35g

Breeding Cages
2 Adults and 1 Litter

In order to prevent overcrowded cages, ULAM is required to separate any unweaned litters on day 22 post birth*. Due to broad variability between strains, ULAM cannot guarantee 100% accuracy in the sexing of mice at this separation. Laboratory personnel are encouraged to either wean litters themselves or to validate separations performed by ULAM.

*Exceptions for delaying weaning for unusually small pups or other special circumstances may be approved by the IACUC or ULAM.