



**The University of Georgia**  
Office of the Vice President for Research

## **UGA IACUC Policy on Provision of Space to Animals**

*Approved by the UGA IACUC  
Effective 1/20/11*

The University of Georgia must make certain that animals used in research and instruction are provided with space adequate to assure their health and welfare. Furthermore, the University is required to comply with animal care and use regulations and guidelines for the provision of space for animals. The UGA IACUC considers the space requirements provided in the following benchmark documents as minimums:

1. The USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations and Policies
2. The ILAR (NIH) Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2010)
3. The FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching (2010)

Where these documents are silent the IACUC references the guidelines provided by learned societies, such as the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and the American Society for Mammalogists.

Space requirements for rodents are based on the recommendations of the NIH Guide. Breeding rodents can create situations where cage overcrowding can rapidly occur. To avoid overcrowding when breeding rodents, the IACUC permits only one litter per standard mouse cage with weaning of the litter at 21 days.

The various space requirements cited above are applied as appropriate for the species and use. Deviations from the provisions of these benchmark documents and rodent breeding guidelines require specific approval by the IACUC with scientific justification provided by the Principal Investigator.

### **References:**

1. United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare Act Regulations ([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/awa\\_info.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/awa_info.shtml)) and USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Policies ([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/policy.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/policy.shtml)).
2. Institute for Laboratory Animal Resources, National Research Council, Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, national Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 2010.
3. FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching (2010), <http://www.fass.org/page.asp?pageID=357>.