

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #502
**ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
FOR MICE**

1. PURPOSE

The intent of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe an appropriate environmental enrichment program for mice.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Facility Animal Care Committees (FACC), veterinarian, principal investigators (PIs), animal care staff.

3. PROCEDURES

3.1. The purpose of environmental enrichment is to provide mice with opportunities to express basic behavior needs, to promote species-typical, non-injurious behavior and to promote physical and mental health thus enhancing animal welfare. The environmental enrichment should be biologically relevant (i.e., hiding, socializing, searching) so that it does not lose its enriching value over time.

3.2. Social Contact:

3.2.1. Pair or group house mice.

3.2.2. Mice may be singly housed with strong scientific, welfare or medical, minimizing stress

and locomotor and exploratory behaviors. Cages
to be housed in appropriately sized groups and

less specifically described in the animal use

pace and height recommendations of the current
mice.

use and provides comfort for the animals.

Enviro-Dri®, NESTLET®, corn husk, shredded
protocol and approved by the FACC.

nt markings during cage change, add additional

ent may be provided as described in the animal

d to increased aggression due to competition.

- 3.5.3.4. Objects to chew such as nylon bones or wooden blocks
- 3.5.3.5. Variety in food (e.g., a piece of vegetable, cereal, or mouse treats)
- 3.5.3.6. Selected food items in the bedding to encourage foraging

3.6.