

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #503
ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
FOR RATS

1. PURPOSE

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

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 rats 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.: hid1 ()]9 0 Td [(8, hi)-8.9 3.1 (coc)3.2 (3-2.1 \$(

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

3.6. Exemption:

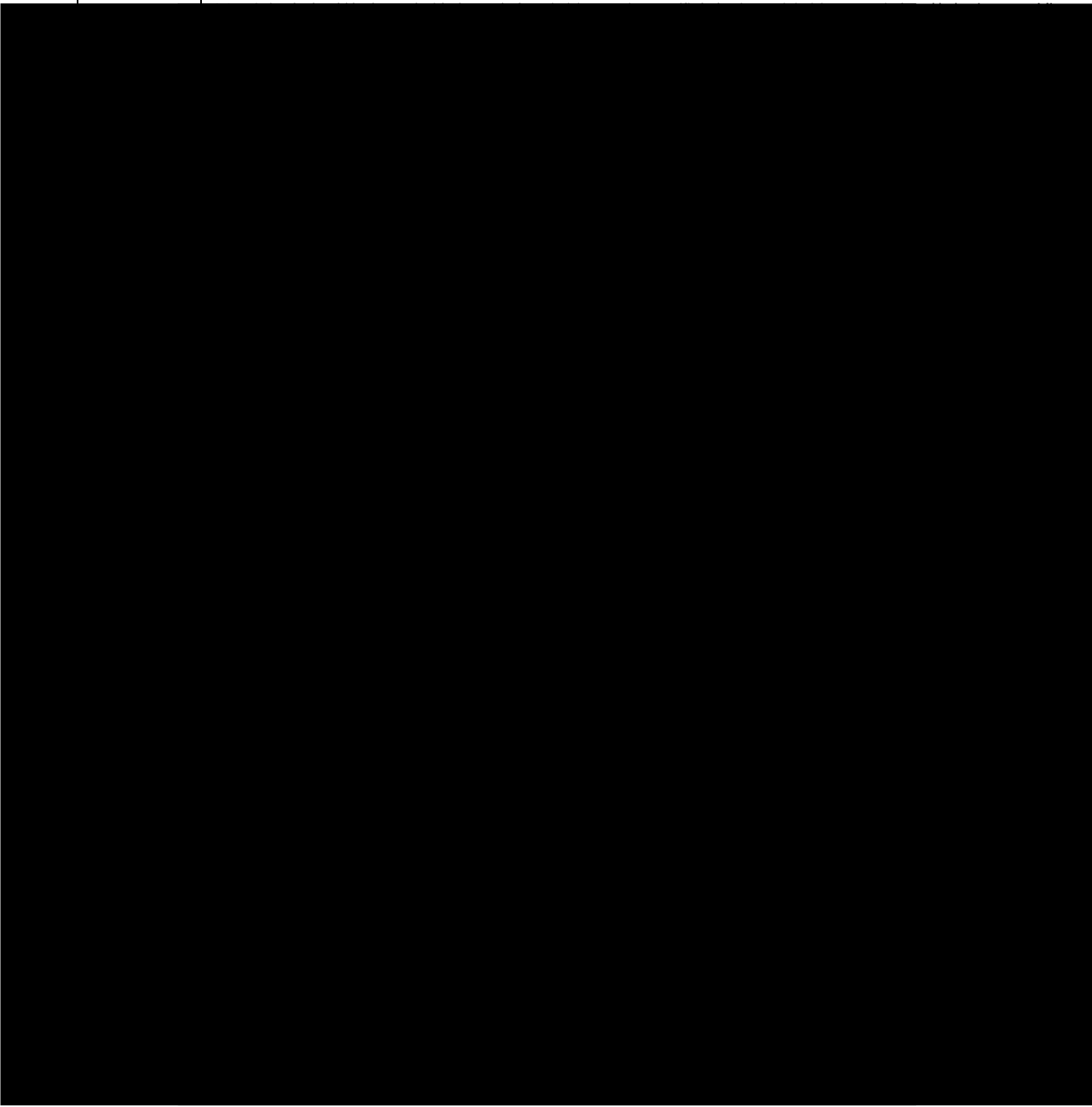
3.6.1. Exemption from this environmental enrichment program must be justified and approved by the FACC, or prescribed for medical reasons.

4. REFERENCES

- 4.1. [Canadian Council on Animal Care \(CCAC\) guidelines: Rats, 2020.](#)

SOP REVISION HISTORY

DATE	NEW VERSION
2023.03.06	2. Responsibility Facility Animal Care Committees (FACC), veterinarian, principal investigators (PIs), animal care staff.
2023.03.06	3.2.2. Rats may be singly housed with strong scientific, welfare or medical justification in some cases: 3.2.2.1. Incompatibility (aggression)
	opportunity for social contact sized groups and to perform
	Care (CCAC) Guidelines for



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