



**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #506**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**  
**FOR GUINEA PIGS**

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**1. PURPOSE**

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

**2. RESPONSIBILITY**

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

**3. PROCEDURES**

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3.1. The purpose of environmental enrichment is to provide guinea pigs 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 guinea pigs.

3.2.2. Guinea pigs may be singly housed with strong scientific, welfare or medical justification:

3.2.2.1. Incompatibility (aggression)

3.2.2.2. Medical reasons

3.2.2.3. Specific protocol approved by FACC

3.3. Housing System:

3.3.1. Animals should be housed with the goal of maximizing species-specific behaviors, minimizing stress-

