

**SOCIALIZATION PLAN FOR SPECIES OTHER THAN NONHUMAN PRIMATES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE (UMB)**

Revised September 2021

Mice/Rats/Hamsters

- Mice, rats, and hamsters are socially housed, with up to 5 adults per cage for hamsters and up to 3 adult rats per cage. Mice are socially housed in compliance with the UMB Policy on Cage Population Densities for Rodents.
- Mice, rats, and hamsters are socially housed as a standard practice. Single housing may sometimes be necessary for scientific, medical, or behavioral reasons. Single housing may also occur when a single animal of a given sex is present in a litter at weaning or through planned or unplanned attrition in a cage during an experiment. When this is the case the singly housed animal is identified with a cage card which describes the reason for single housing. Rats and hamsters are provided with additional inanimate enrichment in accordance with the UMB Enrichment Plan.

Guinea Pigs

- Guinea pigs are socially housed, with a maximum of 5 adults per cage.
- Guinea pigs may be socially housed in either breeding groups or in single-sex groups.
- Guinea pigs are socially housed as a standard practice. Single housing may sometimes be necessary for scientific, medical, or behavioral reasons. Single housing may also occur when a single animal of a given sex is present in a litter at weaning or through planned or unplanned attrition in a cage during an experiment. When this is the case the singly housed animal is identified with a cage card which describes the reason for single housing. These animals are still housed where they will have olfactory and auditory contact with other guinea pigs and are provided with additional inanimate enrichment in accordance with the UMB Enrichment Plan.

Ferrets

- Ferrets are socially housed – generally 2 per cage (depending on the specific caging used)
- Ferrets are socially housed as a standard practice. Single housing may sometimes be necessary for scientific, medical, or behavioral reasons. Single housing may also occur when a single animal of a given sex is present in a litter at weaning or through planned or unplanned attrition in a cage during an experiment. When this is the case the singly housed animal is identified with a cage card which describes the reason for single housing. These animals are still housed where they will have olfactory and auditory contact with other ferrets and are provided with additional inanimate enrichment in accordance with the UMB Enrichment Plan.

Rabbits

- Rabbits are pair or group housed in single sex groups of up to three animals as size and animal compatibility permits. Single housing may sometimes be necessary for scientific, medical, or behavioral reasons. When this is the case the singly housed animal is identified with a cage card which describes the reason for single housing. These animals

are still housed where they will have olfactory and auditory contact with other rabbits and are provided with additional inanimate enrichment in accordance with the UMB Enrichment Plan.

Pigs

- Pigs are pair or group housed in single sex groups as size and animal compatibility permits. Single housing may sometimes be necessary for scientific, medical, or behavioral reasons. When this is the case the singly housed animal is identified with a cage card which describes the reason for single housing. These animals are still housed where they will have olfactory and auditory contact with other pigs and are provided with additional inanimate enrichment in accordance with the UMB Enrichment Plan.
- Pigs are able to socialize with other pigs through enclosure doors on a daily basis when they are let out of their primary enclosures for cleaning of the enclosure.

Sheep

- Sheep are pair or group housed in single sex groups as size and animal compatibility permits. Single housing may sometimes be necessary for scientific, medical, or behavioral reasons. When this is the case the singly housed animal is identified with a cage card which describes the reason for single housing. These animals are still housed where they will have olfactory and auditory contact with other sheep and are provided with additional inanimate enrichment in accordance with the UMB Enrichment Plan.
- Sheep are able to socialize with other sheep through enclosure doors on a daily basis when they are let out of their primary enclosures for cleaning of the enclosure.

Dogs

- Dogs are pair or group housed in single sex groups as size and animal compatibility permits. Single housing may sometimes be necessary for scientific, medical, or behavioral reasons. When this is the case the singly housed animal is identified with a cage card which describes the reason for single housing. These animals are still housed where they will have olfactory and auditory contact with other dogs and are provided with additional inanimate enrichment in accordance with the UMB Enrichment Plan.
- Dogs are able to socialize with other dogs through enclosure doors on a daily basis when they are let out of their primary enclosures for cleaning of the enclosure.
- Socialization with Veterinary Resources staff and approved research staff is practiced.

Xenopus/Zebrafish

- Xenopus are group-housed in tanks of up to 6 for 16-liter tank and up to 10 per 23-liter tank. They can be singly housed for medical, experimental or behavioral reasons.
- Zebrafish are housed in groups at a density of 5 animals per liter.

References

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