

# DLAR Mouse Housing Density Policy



In an effort to help research staff observe the IACUC mouse housing density guidelines, DLAR procedures regarding overcrowding notices will be as follows:

DLAR will place pink Investigator Attention cards on cages in the following circumstances:

1. More than 4 adults or weanlings in a static Micro-isolator<sup>®</sup> or more than 5 adults or weanlings in a Large IVC Cage.
2. Cages with 2 adults and one litter when the pups are **22** days of age or older and/or immediately upon the birth of a second litter into the cage. (The date of birth on the blue DOB card will be counted as day "0".)
3. Cages with 2 females\* and 13 or more pups.
4. Cages with 2 or more females and two or more litters (more than one DOB card is present, **or** pups are determined to be of different ages upon visual inspection).
5. Cages with a singly-housed female and her litter when the pups are **29** days of age or older and/or immediately upon the birth of a second litter into the cage. (The date of birth on the blue DOB card will be counted as day "0".)

\*For cages containing 2 females, "1 litter" will be defined as a total of 12 pups with one date of birth. If more than 12 pups are present or if the litters have different dates of birth, the females and pups must be split into separate cages. For example, if there are 2 females and 13 pups in a cage, the cage can be split into two cages with 1 female, 6 pups in one cage and 1 female, 7 pups in the second cage to bring the housing density into accordance with the IACUC Mouse Housing Density Policy.

As a courtesy, DLAR technicians will place a pink Investigator Attention card onto a cage exhibiting one of the above listed criteria. Once DLAR has placed a pink Investigator Attention card on a cage, the information is entered into the database; an email is then forwarded to the investigative staff who have requested notification. Research personnel have 24 hours to bring the animal housing density into accordance with the IACUC Mouse Housing Density Policy or DLAR will separate animals as deemed most appropriate. **A Technician Charge will be made to the appropriate research account at the current posted Technician Time rate, with a minimum time of 30 minutes.**