Policy on Cage Cards

Date approved: October 25, 2016

Identification

Animal records are essential, ranging from limited information on identification cards to detailed computerized records for individual animals.

Means of animal identification can include room, rack, tank, or enclosure and must include cage cards with written, or bar-coded, or radio frequency identification (RFID) information.

Identification cards should include:

- The source of the animal
- The strain or stock
- Names and contact information for the responsible investigator(s)
- Pertinent dates (e.g., arrival date, birth date, etc.)
- Protocol number when applicable.
- Genotype information, when applicable, should also be included, and consistent, unambiguous abbreviations should be used when the full genotype nomenclature (see below) is too lengthy.
- In addition, the animals may wear collars, bands, plates, or tabs or be marked by colored stains, ear notches/punches and tags, tattoos, subcutaneous transponders, and freeze brands.
- As a method of identification of small rodents, toe clipping should be used only when no other individual identification method is feasible. It may be the preferred method for neonatal mice up to 7 days of age as it appears to have few adverse effects on behavior and well-being at this age especially if toe clipping and genotyping can be combined.
- Under all circumstances aseptic practices should be followed. Use of anesthesia or analgesia should be commensurate with the age of the animals.

Reference

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (NRC 2011)