Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Policy on Cage Cards

Reviewed: 7/26/18

Identification:

Animal records are essential, information required ranges 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.

Rodent 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 be marked by colored stains, ear notches/punches and tags, tattoos, or subcutaneous transponders.
- 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.

References:

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