



Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Use of Wire-Bottomed (Suspended) Cages for Rodents Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure, as much as possible, the comfort and safekeeping of animals used in research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Einstein).

II. Scope

This policy applies to all research experiments and programs at Einstein.

III. Policy

Long-term housing of rodents, especially rats, in suspended cages with wire bottoms increases foot problems such as pododermatitis. In experimental paradigms, rodents have been shown to strongly prefer solid bottom cages with contact bedding to suspended wire cages. Rodents housed at Einstein shall be housed in solid-bottomed cages with contact bedding unless the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approves an exemption with scientific justification. Valid experimental reasons include induction of diabetes mellitus or the need to monitor the daily fecal and urine output of individual animals; in which case, rodents will be housed in suspended wire cages. However, rodents developing foot lesions shall either be euthanatized or shall be moved to solid bottomed cages with contact bedding and treated medically.

IV. Definitions

None.

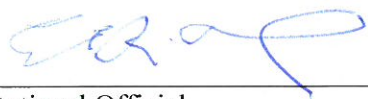
V. Effective Date

Effective as of: 19 February 2018.

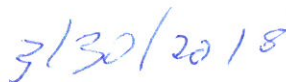
VI. Policy Management and Responsibilities

Einstein's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is the Responsible Office under this Policy. The Institutional Official for the IACUC is the Responsible Executive for this policy. The IACUC Chairperson is the Responsible Officer for the management of this policy.

VII. Approved (or Revised)



Institutional Official



Date

Revision dates: 10/27/1999, 4/20/2005, 6/15/2011, 7/16/2013, 2/22/2017, 2/12/18