ADA Forsyth®

Animal Program Policy

Title: **Social Housing**
Date Created: 11/18/2014
Date Reviewed: 09/30/2026

Mice and rats live in social groups in the wild should be housed in groups in the ADA Forsyth Animal Facility.

Individual housing of these species for experimental purposes must be approved by the IACUC.

Mice

All mice, including males should be provided nesting material and appropriate enrichment.
Females – 3-5 per cage. Avoid addition or removal of cage mates as this can be stressful.
Males

- 3-5 per cage, 3 is preferable.
- Housing two per cage is not recommended.
- Housing together from weaning can prevent fighting.
- Retired breeders must be housed individually or preferably with a non-fertile female.
- Transfer of soiled bedding at cage change can reduce fighting.
- Some species are more prone to fighting than others.
- When attempting to co-house adult males, introduce before co-housing and observe daily for the first week for signs of fighting and separate if needed.
- Non-rigid housing can be helpful (cardboard huts).

Rats

As for mice, these species should be housed in pairs. Rat caging used at AFI is not large enough to house more than two rats per cage.