

Drexel University College of Medicine Animal Care and Use Committee Policy For Animal Enrichment

Objective: The Drexel University Animal Care and Use Committee established this policy to ensure that all species of animals housed in the animal facility receive some form of environmental enrichment.

Responsibility: Animals will each receive enrichment that will be provided by the animal care takers at the time the animal is housed, and each time the cage is changed or the housing unit is sanitized. For some species, efforts will be made to alternate enrichment items to provide novelty. The Investigator is responsible for notifying the IACUC and ULAR if enrichment cannot be provided.

Procedures:

Unless otherwise stated by the Principal Investigator in the IACUC protocol, all animals will be provided with the one of following types of enrichment.

Rats, Mice and Hamsters – Nestlets, paper tubes, running wheels, PVC tubing, Shepard shacks, and/or a plastic shelter igloo. Group housing.

Guinea Pigs (excluding pregnant mothers) – PVC piping, hanging stainless steel rings. Radios in the rooms to provide background sound. Group housing.

Pigs and Piglets – Hanging Nyla-bones and balls and food treats. Radios in the rooms to provide background sound. Group housing.

Cats – scratching post, balls, stuffed toys, sleeping mats, resting perch. Group housing.

Dogs – Kong toys, balls and hanging bones, and food treats. Radio in the rooms to provide background sound. Pair housing.

Rabbits – Stainless steel mirrors, shapes and/or plastic balls. Radios in the rooms to provide background sound. Food treats.

Frogs – PVC piping

Prairie Dogs – Group housing, paper tubes

Last review date: March 11, 2009