

## **GUIDELINES FOR ESTIMATING CAGE SPACE REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the basic animal requirements asked in “FORM B”, the IAUC asks for more detailed information regarding the experimental animal groups needed for the pursuit of the project as well as a detailed breeding scheme required to meet the experimental needs. The aim here is for the IAUC and the PI to have a more accurate notion of the number of cages, the space and timeline requirements for each proposed project as well as the estimated Animal Facility Use costs involved.

### **ESTIMATION OF CAGE SPACE**

In order to estimate your final required number of cages per day: you would need to estimate the following:

#### **1. Details On the Required Experimental Animals**

- Species / strain /line /genotype
- Age / weight /or size - Gender (F/M)
- Specific generation or phylogenic relationship if required (F1, F2 .../ littermate requirements?)
- Number of animals per experimental group to be used simultaneously and frequency of usage (daily / weekly / monthly / yearly / other)
- Special housing requirements (VivariumV1, V2, V3 or V4; SPF.1 /SPF.2 / non SPF / ABSL2 /ABSL3 / desired number of animals (breeding and experimental) per cage - especially if animals are required in solo cages (= one animal per cage).
- Details and information on the ACRC different SPF level requirements, pathogen monitoring results and associated housing fees can be found on the ACRC website: <https://www.ncbs.res.in/research-facilities/acrc-useful-links>

## 2. Breeding Scheme Outline Necessary to Meet the Needs in Experimental Animal Numbers and Specifics

- Breeding type (inbred / outbred / outcrossed / backcrossed / hybrid/ other)?
- Number of Breeding duos (= 1 male + 1 female) / trios (= 1 male + 2 females)?
- Continuous breeding or timed and prescheduled breeding?

All these different breeding requirements will impact the end number of cages required for breeding and expanding your colony: you should therefore have a clear idea of these requirements before you start your animal protocol. The ACRC can help you in figuring out what best meets your experimental needs: please do contact us if required. The IAUC will offer help in filling the “**IAUC Cage Space Request Form**” to any PI who requests it but at least 1.5 weeks PRIOR to the submission deadline.

### IAUC APPROVAL

IAUC estimates of the total required number of cages per animal holding room type per year after receiving the “Form B” (appendix F) and the “IAUC\_Cage Space Request Form”; together with the PI, the committee will conclude on the estimated space and timeline project requirements based on the following numbers:

- Breeding cage numbers / animal holding room type / duration time
- Gestation / weaning cage numbers / animal holding room type / duration time
- Experimental cage numbers / animal holding room type / duration time

If a projects evolves and the PI/Lab needs additional cage space. This request for additional cage space can be formulated to the IAUC any time during the year by filling out a revised “**IAUC Cage Space Request Form**”. The IAUC will review the request and decide on the additional number of cages and vivarium type that can be allocated to the PI. It is important that PIs go through the IAUC approval before expanding their cage

numbers as the IAUC needs to assure that the space is available in the proper vivarium type and decide in which room these additional cages can be given. Labs who exceed their IAUC allocated cage numbers without prior “additional cage space request” to the IAUC will be fined accordingly (see AF user fees paragraph).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to space limitations, expansion of cage space over 200 cages requires approval from the IAUC and the deans of NCBS or inStem. Additional cage space above 200 cages will only be granted on a fixed-term basis, not to exceed 6 months.