

RARC Animal Social Housing & Enrichment Requirements (ASHER) for species other than nonhuman primates*

1) Social Housing Program

- a) Social housing will be applied according to this document.
- b) Social housing requirements in this document apply to animals used in biomedical protocols only. Agricultural animals are housed according to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* and industry standards.
- c) Housing strategies may differ from that described in this document if there is scientific justification and IACUC approval, or at RARC veterinary discretion.
- d) Individuals of a species may be incompatible for social housing, such as female hamsters and some intact adult males.
 - i. These animals may be permanently separated into single housing.
- e) Female rodents near the time of parturition may be singly housed to allow for recommended minimum space.
- f) There may be instances where there is only 1 individual animal present; e.g. 1 animal remaining in a group or study, or 1 animal ordered for a pilot study.
 - i. To prevent additional experimental variables (e.g. by the addition of a new animal to the pen/cage) these animals may be singly housed until the end of the experiment.
- g) Some species (e.g. 13-lined ground squirrels) are not considered social and will be housed individually.
- h) Additional Social Housing information may be found in School- or facility- specific Standard Operating Procedures.

2) Environment Enrichment

- a) Environmental Enrichment will be applied according to this document.
- b) Environmental Enrichment requirements in this document apply to animals used in biomedical protocols only. Agricultural animals are housed and maintained according to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* and industry standards.
- c) Environmental Enrichment strategies may differ from that described in this document if there is scientific justification and IACUC approval, or at RARC veterinary discretion.
- d) Additional Environmental Enrichment information may be found in School- or facility-specific Standard Operating Procedures.

3) IACUC Review

- a) Each IACUC will review the Social Housing and Enrichment program on a regular basis.

* Separate School- or facility-specific Standard Operating Procedures and practices exist for non-human primate social housing and environmental enrichment

Reference: *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* 8th ed., pp 51-54

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Species	Housing	Enrichment options
Mice	Social/Pair Housing	Nesting Material, Shelters/Structures/Lofts, Food Treats**, Exercise Devices
Rats	Social/Pair Housing	Shelters/ Structures/ Lofts, Chewing Items, Nesting Material, Food Treats**
Rabbits	Females: Social/Pair Housing (if compatible)	Larger Runs, Playtime Outside of Cage, Food Treats*, Chew Items, Toys ^
	Males: Singly	
Hamsters	Females: Singly	Shelters/Structures, Nesting Material, Chew Items, Food Treats**
	Males: Social/Pair Housing (if compatible)	
Gerbils	Pair Housing	Chew Items, Nesting Material, Shelters/Structures, Food Treats**
Guinea pigs	Social/Pair Housing (if compatible)	Shelters/Structures, Chew Items, Food Treats**
Dogs	Social/Pair Housing	Sufficient Exercise Space, Positive Human Interaction, Food Treats, Toys^, Resting Board, Textile Bedding (when appropriate)
Cats	Social/Pair Housing	Elevated Resting Surface, Scratching Devices, Toys ^, Positive Human Interaction, Pheromone, Food Treats**
Ferrets	Social/Pair Housing	Sleeping Device/Structures, Toys ^, Food treats**, Positive Human Interaction
Ground Squirrels	Single Housing	Nesting material, Shelters/Structures
Chinchillas	Social/Pair Housing	Dust Bath, Shelters/Structures, Play Area, Chew Items, Food Treats**

**All food must be veterinarian approved

^ All toys must be veterinarian approved

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Species	Housing	Enrichment options
Pigs	Intact Males: Singly	Toys^, Ice, Food Treats**, Scratching Surfaces
	Others: Social/Pair Housing	
Sheep	Social/Pair Housing	Sheep in adjacent pen for singly housed animals, Mirrors
Goats	Social/Pair Housing	Climbing Structure, Food Treats**, Toys ^
Cattle	Intact Males: Singly	Time on Pasture/Complex Forage, Positive Human Interaction, Cow Brush, Salt Licks
	Others: Social/Pair Housing	
Horses	Intact Males: Singly	Time on Pasture, Brushing/Positive Human Interaction, Food Treats**
	Others: Social/Pair Housing	
Small Birds (highly species dependent)	Pair/Group Housing	Perching Structures, Visual Cage Barriers, Shelters/Structures, Nesting Material, Food Treats**, Water Baths
Reptiles (highly species dependent)	Pair/Group Housing (when species appropriate)	Shelters/Structures, Hiding Devices, Food Treats**
Amphibians (highly species dependent)	Pair/Group Housing (when species appropriate)	Shelters/Structures, Hiding Devices, Food Treats**
Fish (highly species dependent)	Pair/Group Housing (when species appropriate)	Hiding Devices (when species appropriate)
Non-human Primates	Separate School- or facility-specific Standard Operating Procedures and practices exist for non-human primate social housing and environmental enrichment	

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