

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE & USE COMMITTEE

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE VIVARIUM CAGE CARD SYSTEM

PURPOSE:

To facilitate animal care and management at Liberty University, the IACUC has developed guidelines on the use of colored cage cards. The below described cage card color system will enable personnel to rapidly identify cage conditions and allows appropriate action to be taken.

GUIDELINES:

The standard white cage card should be used in most cases (example below). If a colored card is required, these cards should be visibly placed behind the standard white cage card. The only exception to this would be the green breeder card. Green breeder cards should take the place of the standard white cage card when breeder pairs are used.

This system is not meant to replace a PI's individual records, and is designed more toward smaller (rodent) animals. Any questions about the cage card system should be directed toward the vivarium manager or the IACUC Office.

<input type="checkbox"/> PI: _____ (____) _____		<div>Animals in cage: _____</div>
<u>Mice</u> <input type="checkbox"/> CD-1 <input type="checkbox"/> BALB/c <input type="checkbox"/> A/J <input type="checkbox"/> C57/B6 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<u>Rats</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<u>Rabbits</u> <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand White <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Protocol #: _____		Source: <input type="checkbox"/> Charles River <input type="checkbox"/> JAX
DOR: ____/____/____		DOB: _____ Male / Female
Experiment _____		Sacrifice Date: _____
Veterinarian Contact Info _____		

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WHITE—STANDARD CAGE CARD

- The standard white cage card should be visibly displayed on each cage, unless the cage is a breeder cage. Each standard white cage card must contain, at minimum, the following information:
 - PI Name
 - Species
 - Vendor
 - Date of Receipt (DOR)
 - Number of animals

GREEN—BREEDER

- In breeding colonies, the green breeder cage card takes the place of the standard white cage card. This card should include the breeder IDs and pairing date in addition to the standard cage card information. This enables observers to identify any breeder cages in a prompt manner. For instructions on how to house, care for, and maintain breeding colonies, refer to the IACUC's breeding policy. Breeding colonies must be explicitly approved by the IACUC for reasons other than cost or convenience.

BLUE—PUPS/NEW LITTER

- This card is to be placed behind the green breeder card when a new litter is born. This blue card should track the date of birth and weaning dates for the pups, as well as the number of pups born. Weaning dates are typically 21 days or 28 days (with IACUC approval). More information on weaning and animal counting can be found in the IACUC policies and guidelines handbook.

YELLOW—ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUE & VETERINARY RESPONSE

- This card is to be used if any health issues are identified. An observer should record the issue on the card and promptly inform the PI or vet of the issue. The PI or Vet may then take appropriate action and should record any follow-up actions taken on the back of the yellow cage card.
- **BLACK STICKER—DEAD ANIMAL:** A black sticker is to be placed on a yellow cage card should any animal deaths be observed. The observer should fill out the back of the yellow card with as much information as possible, including time/date of observation, and number of dead animals. Once completed, this yellow card should be placed behind the standard white cage card.

“H” DESIGNATION—HOLDING PROTOCOL

- Any animals that are off-limits to researchers in a holding protocol shall have an “H” visibly written on the standard white cage card. This alerts all individuals that the animals are not to be engaged in research or teaching until they have been transferred from the holding protocol by the Attending Veterinarian.

LAVENDER—SPECIAL DIET OR SPECIAL HUSBANDRY

- This card allows for a description of any special husbandry needs (modified diet, modified food/water schedule). This information will allow for inspectors and staff to understand any observed differences in husbandry or animal behavior.

RED—SURVIVAL SURGERY/POST-PROCEDURE MONITORING

- This card should be used to flag any animal cages in which animals are recovering from surgical procedures. This notifies any observers that the animals are recovering while also detailing any special care that must be provided. The time and duration of the recovery period should be noted on this card (begin, duration, end).