



**TITLE: IACUC POLICY ON WIRE-BOTTOM CAGING**

**PURPOSE:** Standardize acceptable use of and maintenance of wire-bottom caging.

**REVIEW/REVISION:**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 4, 1998; **Revised/Re-Approved:** 12/7/00, 11/2/06, November 1, 2007

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE:** University Animal Care husbandry staff and research personnel.

**POLICY/PROCEDURES:**

CLEANING:

- Wire-bottom rodent cages are cleaned once a week along with other caging.
- Wire-bottom dog caging is cleaned every day.

GENERAL POLICY:

Wire-bottom caging is discouraged for general use. It is more comfortable for rats to be in contact bedding. Any animals that are put in wire-bottom cages will be monitored for foot discomfort. Assignment of animals to wire-bottom cages will be at the discretion of University Animal Care with input from the investigator.

SPECIES:

- Rats - rolled wire
- Guinea pig - infrequently
- Rabbits - flat wire
- Dogs - coated wire floor cages
- Chicken - coated and non-coated
- Cats - cages are floored with rat boards.

EXCEPTIONS:

- Due to specific aspects of research projects, some investigators request wire-bottom caging. Some examples are listed below:
  - Toxicology Studies: Eliminates the ingestion of bedding
  - Diabetes Studies: Prevents animals from laying in urine soaked bedding
  - Special Diets: Allows for the collection of "wasted" feed.
  - Survival Surgery: Assures that bedding won't contaminate surgical sites.
  - Metabolic Studies: Allows for collection of feces.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

AAALAC's Council on Accreditation recommended that IACUC review their institutions use of wire-bottom caging for rodents.

It was suggested that caging be reviewed for every protocol. It was decided that this would complicate the review process and would limit UAC's ability to adjust caging as needed, that a general policy would better serve this institution's use of wire-bottom caging.