

Creating Mating Cages Protocol

Before you start:

- Use the Database to determine the next available mating cage number.
- It is recommended to move females into a cage already occupied by a male, if possible. It may take males a few days to become accustomed to their surroundings (marking territory, etc.) and these tasks may distract them from mating if they are placed into a new cage.
- House 2 females for each male for optimum results.

To mate:

1. Place the animals together in a cage. The males may immediately become aggressive and mount/bite the females. The females may vocalize. This is normal, as long as the females do not appear to be battered, ragged, or in danger of death.
2. Replace food in hopper with fresh chow, using the 5008 diet.
 - ▶ The 5008 diet has a higher fat content than the 5001 diet. This is important, as females may not conceive on a lower fat diet. While on the 5001 diet, females can conceive but they may have complications during pregnancy, small litters, lower pup birth weights, or lower milk production.
3. Replace lid and fill out cage card with appropriate information. Include:
 - ▶ Mating Cage # (Cage #).
 - ▶ Generation of pups to be produced (Gen).
 - ▶ Ross Account # to be charged (Ross-Acct#).
 - ▶ Stock/Colony the mice belong to (Stock).
 - ▶ Our ULAM approval number (Protocol #).
 - ▶ Date mating cage was set up (Date Mated).
 - ▶ Tag # of females and males (Tag #).
 - ▶ Parents' dates of birth (DOB).
 - ▶ Parents' generation and genotypes (G'type).
4. Affix cage card to cage with card holder or tape.
5. Affix yellow acetate with "5008" to cage with card holder or tape.
 - ▶ The yellow acetate indicates to ULAM husbandry technicians that a special procedure is in effect. The "5008" indicates that the mice in the marked cage should receive the 5008 diet.

To update the Database:

6. Open the database.
7. Open "Mouse" form in database.
8. Move males and females into new mating cages.
 - ▶ See "Protocol for Moving Mice in Database".
9. Close "Mouse" form.
10. Open "Mating Cages" form in database.
11. Create a new record.
12. Fill in the following fields with appropriate information:
 - ▶ New cage number (Cage).
 - ▶ Date cage created (Date Mated).
 - ▶ Generation of pups to be produced (Generation).
 - ▶ Any comments/observations (Comments).
13. For the Stock field, follow this convention:
 - ▶ Male generation, male genotype x female generation, female genotype.
 - ▶ i.e. If mating a 129N1 +/- male with 129 0 +/- females, one would write the following in the Stock field:
 - 129N1 +/- vs. 129 0 +/-
14. Close window when finished.