

Exception to USDA AWA Regulations and Standards

Nov. 19, 2012

Full cage change frequency for dwarf hamsters is approved for 14 day intervals.

- a. Dwarf hamsters are pair-housed for breeding in either an IVC system or static filter-top cages. Cage changing increases stress of breeding animals and neonatal mortality via cannibalism. Hamsters are provided deep, absorbent bedding to compensate for the increased interval. Dwarf hamsters are a water-conserving, low-urine output species.
- b. Animals affected by this exception include 240 breeding hamsters and their progeny.
- c. Exception to the AWA Regulation and Standards has been reviewed and approved by the University of Montana IACUC.