Policy #9801

Wire-bottomed (Suspended) Rodent Cages

Long term housing of rodents, especially rats, in suspended cages with wire bottoms increases foot problems such as pododermatitis. In experimental paradigms, rodents have been shown to strongly prefer solid bottom cages with contact bedding to suspended wire cages. Rodents housed at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (EINSTEIN) shall be housed in solid-bottomed cages with contact bedding unless the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approves an exemption with scientific justification. Valid experimental reasons, include induction of diabetes mellitus or the need to monitor the daily fecal and urine output of individual animals, rodents will be housed in suspended wire cages. However, rodents developing foot lesions shall either be euthanatized or shall be moved to solid bottomed cages with contact bedding and treated medically.