

LAF and Animal (Mouse) Use Agreement

As mandated by the Laboratory Animal Facility, orientation of current animal users is required prior to usage of the facilities at LAF. All mouse users must make sure they have familiarised themselves with the **LAF Animal User Manual, General Animal Use Training (2021)** and the **Mouse Handling Training (2021)** (Available in LAF web page (https://apcf.infosite.ust.hk/?page_id=1336) and this document before granted access to the LAF facilities. This orientation covers the rules and regulations regarding the use of animals in research.

1. In compliance with the “Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” and the LAF requirements, overcrowding compromises humane animal care and goes against the principles of the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
2. Investigators are responsible for checking their breeding colonies frequently and recording the date of birth (DOB) for new pups.
3. Definitions of overcrowding are stated in the training material **Mouse Handling Training (2021)**.
4. When overcrowding with **new pups** are found:
 - 4.1 A red card will be issued and placed on the cage, followed by an email to notify the user of the issue.
 - 4.2 LAF staff will separate the older litter into a new cage at the maximum animal density as defined as overcrowding by LAF.
 - 4.3 LAF staff will create temporary cage cards for each new cage created. Food and water will be provided for all weaned pups’ cages once separated.
 - 4.4 A fee will be charged to the PI per cage separated by the LAF staff.
 - 4.5 Repetitive offenders will face consequences including suspended access to the facility.
5. LAF reserves the right to manage and the decision on how to manage all animals in the facility if their welfare is being compromised without users’ agreement, including, but not limited to, euthanizing animals in overcrowded cages and those that are in severe pain or distress that is not manageable with analgesia.
6. Users have the obligation to read animal issue notification emails from LAF and following up issues according to LAF’s requirement.

By my signature, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the policies of LAF facilities as defined in this document.

User Name

PI Name

User Signature

Date