NOTICE

Fee for separation of rodent cages to alleviate overcrowded conditions has changed.

Effective January 1, 2019, the service fee for having IAS staff separate overcrowded cages will increase from the current $5 per cage to $10 per cage.

Background: Animal Welfare Regulations and guidelines set limits on the number and biomass of animals that can be housed in a standard cage. The limits for rodents are described in **Einstein IACUC Policy 18-004: "Overcrowded Cages Policy".**

Investigators (and their staff) are expected to check their animals at least weekly or more frequently as stipulated in their approved **Animal Use Protocol**. Overcrowded cages should be identified and corrected immediately during these inspections.

To assist investigator in remaining compliant with housing density requirements, IAS husbandry staff flag overcrowded cages when found with a uniquely numbered **BLUE "Over Crowded Cage"** card. **These cards serve as official notification. IAS will leave the cage for 2 days following flagging to allow the investigator staff to address the problem**. IAS will typically allow up to 6 days for cages containing a litter that is ready to be weaned. In situations that could impact animal health or well-being, however, IAS reserves the right to address the problem immediately upon discovery (at the discretion of IAS Management or Veterinarians).

If research personnel do not address the problem, IAS will separate the animals into new cages and identify those new cages (linking them to the original BLUE card number). There is a service fee for having IAS staff separate cages. **That fee will be $10 per overcrowded cage.**

Rationale for the change: The service fee is to recover expenses related to caretaker time to report/flag the cage, monitor, and then separate and label the new cages. Cage separation can disrupt the husbandry routine and the old fee did not recover costs.

Recommendation: We highly recommend that research personnel check their animals twice per week (at the beginning and end of each week) and correct any overcrowding issues that they find themselves. Checking ones animals the day before the scheduled (weekly) cage change and correcting overcrowded conditions at that time will reduce the need for the IAS caretaker to fill out BLUE notification cards and to separate any cages later. IAS staff will continue to place BLUE overcrowded cage cards on cages that they find to be overcrowded during daily rounds. **These cards themselves will serve as official notification**. The fee will be applied only if the IAS caretakers have to separate the overcrowded cage.