

**ACUC Approval Date: 12/11/07**

**NIMH Guideline # G4**

**Date Issued: 1/15/2002**

**Date(s) Revised: 12/11/2007**

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**TITLE:** Recommended Recording Format for In-House Rodent Breeding Records

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**I. General Considerations**

- A. All animal breeding done within the NIMH intramural research program must be covered by a NIMH Animal Study Proposal (ASP).
- B. The animals produced by the breeding colony may only be used for specific experimental projects under Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) approved protocols.
- C. Breeding cages must be identified on the animal cage card as such and in addition to the usual information (such as the name of the investigator, ASP number, etc.) must include the following information:
  - 1. The number of males and females in the cage
  - 2. The birth dates for any litters born
  - 3. The weaning date of each litter
  - 4. The number of pups weaned
- D. In order to avoid problems from overcrowding, the NIMH ACUC has established guidelines for ensuring that young are weaned in a timely manner to avoid loss of pups and inhumane situations. Please refer to NIMH Guidelines for Harem Breeding and VMRB SOP 306.00 for these guidelines.
- E. All breeding records are subject to review by the NIMH ACUC and must be submitted with the annual USDA Report.
- F. Question concerning this guideline should be directed to the NIMH APD or VMRB.

**II. Breeding Records**

- A. Up to date and accurate records of the breeding program must be maintained by the PI or their designee.
- B. Although each investigator is allowed to utilize the format of his/her choice, these records must
  - 1. Include the minimum information as shown in the example below
  - 2. Be understandable to a person not familiar with the ASP

Breeding Records for ASP XYZ- 99 (09)
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Animal ID #	DOB	Dam / Sire	Sex	Strain	Wean Date	Disposition*
3765	1/10/07	352A/199Q	Male	+/+	1/31/07	Euthanized 2/6/07
3766-3769	1/10/07	352A/199Q	Female	-/-	1/31/07	Transferred to ASP XYZ-90 (08)

\* Rodents which are spontaneously aborted, born dead or die within three days of birth need not be included.

### III. Breeding Program Records

- A. It is recommended that a regularly updated summary of the breeding program records be maintained by the investigator, providing the history of breeder animals, mating set ups and mating results. An example is provided below.

Breeding Cage Records for ASP XYZ-99 (09)								
Breeder Cage #	Breeder Pair	ID #	Strain	DOB	Setup Date	Delivery Date	# Born / # Weaned	M/F
247 B	Female	435169	Fmr1-/-	7/4/07	10/15/07	11/16/07	10/7	4/3
	Male	338866	C57Bl/s	9/5/07				