

Guidelines for Mouse Cage Density Based on Body Weight

It is recommended that the cage density for the Individually Ventilated (75s.i.) cage not exceed 150 gr. of body weight and 125gr. for the static MI (67s.i.) cage. Cage density must be monitored (weigh animals) frequently to ensure density is in compliance with the “*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*”

Space Requirements per “*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*”

Body Weight of Animal (gr)	Space Requirement per Animal (in ²)	Maximum Number per IV Cage (75 s.i)	Total Body Weight per IV Cage (75 s.i)	Maximum Number per MI Static Cage (<67 s.i)	Total Body Weight per MI Static Cage (67 s.i)
<10	6	12	120	11	110
Up to 15	8	9	135	8	120
Up to 25	12	6	<150	5	125
> 25*	15*	5	125*	4	100*

Example:	Space Requirement per Animal (in ²)	Maximum Number per IV Cage (75 s.i)	Total Body Weight per IV Cage (75 s.i)	Maximum Number per MI Static Cage (<67 s.i)	Total Body Weight per MI Static Cage (67 s.i)
Breeding Pair & Litter	12 (adult) 6 (pup)	2 adults 15 pups @ <10 gr.	114	2 adults 7 pups @ <10 gr.	120
Weanlings	8 (15 gr.)	15 weanlings	120	8 weanlings	120
Adult: 25gr.	15*	5 adults weighing: 30gr, 32gr, 31gr, 29gr & 27gr	150	4 adults weighing: 35gr, 34gr, 30gr, & 26gr.	125
Adult: >25gr Overcrowded	15*	4 adults weighing: 35gr, 48gr, 45gr, & 40gr	168	4 adults weighing: 35gr, 34gr, 45gr, & 40gr	154

* *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states “Larger animals might require more space to meet performance standards.” Normal postural adjustments, condition of cage bedding, adequacy of food and water supply, etc., are factors considered when defining performance-based standards.