



NSW DPI

Animal Research Review Panel – Animal Housing Guidelines

Animal Welfare Branch
Lynette Chave





NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Animal Welfare Branch – Sydney Office

Cumberland State Forest




Skink Housing



Scope

- Development of the ARRPP housing guidelines
 - meeting animals' physical and behavioural needs
 - evidence-based

- Specific examples from:
 - "ARRP Guideline 20: Guidelines for the Housing of Rats in Scientific Institutions"*



Evidence-Based Housing Guidelines

Literature Search

Normal behaviour

Cage/enclosure design

Animal care and management


Environmental variables



Topics

- Principles
 - Background information with literature citations

- Recommendations
 - Drawn from the background information



Circulation for Comment

- Wide circulation of draft for comment
 - Animal Ethics Committees
 - Animal welfare groups
 - National and international bodies
 - National and international experts



International Recognition

* Canadian Council on Animal Care

* RSPCA UK

* International Council for Laboratory Animal Science



Guidelines for the Housing of Rats in Scientific Institutions

- Normal rat behaviours
 - Social
 - Nocturnal
 - Highly developed smell, hearing, touch
 - Use ultrasound
 - Range of movements
 - Play
 - Explore



Cage Design

- Floor Area
 - behavioural and physiological needs
 - compartmentalise living areas
 - preference tests
 - physical movements
 - shelter and rest
 - cage furnishings



Floor Area Recommendations

“As a guide..... the minimum floor area for a group of up to 5 rats of up to 250-300gm body weight should be 1,500cm² and preferably 1,800cm².”

For larger rats, group size should be decreased or cage floor area increased, on the basis that as rats grow, while play behaviour decreases, cage floor area must accommodate other behaviours including social interaction.”



Cage Height

- Stretch upright
- Prefer a low, dark cage



Recommend a cage with variable height

In-cage Shelters

- Withdraw from light
- Aid thermoregulation
- Means of escape
- Wall hugging
- Climbing platform
- Use of nesting material



In-cage Shelter Recommendations

- Provide an in-cage shelter
- Ideally solid, opaque sides and roof
- Design to let rats climb onto the shelter roof



Future Directions

- Individually ventilated cages



Thank You