28 Day Weaning Cards Standard Operating Procedure BYU

Authored by Sarah Coffin 06/29/17 updated 3-30-18

Rodent pups are typically weaned at 21 days of age. In cases where the pups are deemed too small to wean, a *28 Day Weaning Card* may be placed on the cage. This card allows investigators the liberty to wean the pups any time between 21 days and 28 days of age. If the pups are not weaned by 28 days, the cage is considered overcrowded and will have a red tab placed on it for a non-compliance issue. If the pups are not weaned by 29 days of age, the vivarium breeding manager will wean the pups and the primary investigator will be billed $25.

To receive a *28 Day Weaning Card*:

1. If at 21 days of life you feel the pups are too small to be weaned, you will find Warren Bingham or Sarah Coffin to look at the pups. You can ask one of the vivarium staff to radio them or find them in their offices, LSB 1104A and LSB 1104E. You can also reach them on their cell phones (Warren 8018571217 or Sarah 7207245989).
2. Warren or Sarah will inspect the animals and decide if they are large enough to be weaned or if they should stay with their mother. They will train the investigator in weaning size inspection
3. If the pups are too small, Warren or Sarah will give you a *28 Day Weaning Card* to be placed on the cage in front of the cage card. The white tab with Date of Birth will still need to be visible.
4. Warren or Sarah will record when the card was given and who it was given to. They will also record who has been trained and when. If you have been trained, you may receive *28 Day Weaning Card* from any vivarium staff member.
5. Every day the *28 Day Weaning Card* is on the cage, the investigators must check the cage. They must date and initial the *28 Day Weaning Card* to show that they are still monitoring the animals. This includes weekends and holidays.
6. As soon as the pups are ready to be weaned, the investigator will wean them and return the *28 Day Weaning Card* to Warren or Sarah. If they are not in their offices, you can put the card in the holders outside their doors with your name and protocol number on the card.
7. The card must be returned within 7 days of receiving it. If the card is not returned, it will be assumed that the cage was not weaned and it will receive a red tab with a non-compliance issue.
8. If the pups are not weaned by 29 days of age, the vivarium breeding manager will wean the pups and the primary investigator will be billed $25.

If you have any concerns about the health or welfare of your weanlings, you can find Sandy Garrett, Russ Matheson, Warren Bingham, or Sarah Coffin in the offices in the 1104 hallway.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                Vivarium Manager

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                 Assistant Manager

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                University Veterinarian