

1. PURPOSE

The intent of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe an appropriate environmental enrichment program for non-human primates (NHPs).

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Facility Animal Care Committees (FACCs), principal investigators (PIs), animal care staff

3. PROCEDURES

- 3.1. The purpose of environmental enrichment is to provide non-human primates with opportunities to express basic behavior needs, to promote species-typical, non-injurious, behavior and to promote physical and mental health thus enhancing animal welfare. The environmental enrichment should be biologically relevant (i.e.: hiding, socializing, searching) so that it does not lose its enriching value over time.
- 3.2. Social Contact:
 - 3.2.1. Pair or group house non-human primates of the same gender.
 - 3.2.2. Non-human primates may be singly housed in some cases:
 - 3.2.2.1. Incompatibility
 - 3.2.2.2. Medical reasons
 - 3.2.2.3. Specific protocol approved by FACC
- 3.3. Housing System:
 - 3.3.1. Animals should be housed with the goal of maximizing species-specific behaviors and minimizing stress-induced behaviors.
 - 3.3.2. House non-human primates preferably in cages favoring higher vertical spaces, maximizing the use of the cage volume with perches, swings, ropes, platforms, nests, etc. at different levels.
 - 3.3.3. Provide regular opportunity for exercise, unless specifically described in a protocol and approved by the FACC.
 - 3.3.4. Housing system should exceed the minimal space recommendations established by CCAC.
- 3.4. Dietary Enrichment:
 - 3.4.1. Increase time spent eating and foraging for food with modified feeders and foraging devices.
 - 3.4.2. Provide a variety of fresh vegetables and fruits (in small quantities) regularly (at least 3 times/week). Vegetables should be thoroughly rinsed prior to use.
 - 3.4.3. Give treats as reward for positive reinforcement.
- 3.5. Objects:
 - 3.5.1. Toys:
 - 3.5.1.1. Provide and rotate toys on a bi-weekly basis (e.g. Kong toys, wooden blocks, balls, mirrors, etc.). Toys must be safe.
- 3.6. Exemption:
 - 3.6.1. Exemption from this environmental enrichment program must be justified and approved by the FACC, or prescribed for medical reasons.