

ANIMAL EXERCISE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT FOR CATS

I. Purpose

- A. Enrichment for cats helps prevent boredom, reduces behavioral vices, promotes natural behaviors, and helps prevent aggression in social groupings. Domesticated cats often benefit from group housing situations, provided that there are provisions for escape and privacy when necessary.
- B. The purpose of this program is to ensure that all cats receive adequate environmental enrichment through promotion of natural behaviors and social interactions.
- C. Additional human contact should improve the well-being of the cats and facilitate their handling and socialization.

II. Responsibility

- A. The LARAC veterinary technician along with LARAC staff members, are responsible for enrichment of cats.

III. Procedures

- A. For this aspect of the program, LARAC personnel will spend at least 10 minutes three times weekly with the kennel cats individually or as a group, providing treats to each cat and speaking to them.
- B. Each cat will be brushed weekly.
- C. Small toys will be provided within the enclosures. These toys should provide stimulation through sight, motion, or sound. Cats prefer these toys over those designed for chewing activities. Toys in each enclosure will be rotated once weekly. Toys will be taken out of the cages/room and sanitized, then replaced with clean different toys.
- D. Once a LARAC staff member has enriched a cat, the date, amount of time spent, and type of enrichment provided will be entered on the form provided for each cat in the environmental enrichment book for that area. Rotation of toys and brushing will also be entered on the enrichment form.

IV. Exemptions

- A. Individual cats may be exempted from the exercise requirement by an attending or clinical veterinarian for reasons relating to health or well being of the animal. A notation will be made in the animal's individual medical record. Examples could include clinical illness, post-surgical recovery, collection of biological specimens such as urine or feces for health evaluations, or chronic health conditions where exercise might exacerbate the condition. If an animal is exempted from exercise long-term, re-evaluation of the exemption should occur every 30 days.

- B. An animal may be exempted from the exercise requirements for scientific reasons if justified in the research proposal and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
- C. Other exemptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the attending veterinarian.
- D. Records of any exceptions/exemptions shall be maintained and be made available for review by the university laboratory animal veterinarian(s), the IACUC, and/or USDA officials upon request.

Nose tip to tail base is (inches):	<u>Minimum cage size for dog</u> (sq. ft.):	Dog needs exercise unless pen size is (sq. ft.):
12	2.2	4.4
15	3.1	6.2
18	4.0	8.0
19	4.3	8.6
20	4.7	9.4
21	5.1	10.2
22	5.4	10.8
23	5.8	11.6
24	6.2	12.4
25	6.7	13.4
26	7.1	14.2
27	7.6	15.2
28	8.0	16.0
29	8.5	17.0
30	9.0	17.8
31	9.5	19.0
32	40.0	20.0
33	10.6	21.1
34	11.1	22.2
35	11.7	23.4
36	12.3	24.6
37	12.8	25.6
38	13.4	26.8
39	14.1	28.2
40	14.7	29.4
41	15.3	30.6
42	16.0	32.0
43	16.7	33.4
44	17.4	34.8
45	18.1	36.2
46	18.8	37.6