

Humane Treatment & Use of Laboratory Rats and Mice

General Care

Zoonosis – definition and prevention
How to handle a rat and a mouse
How to restrain a rat
How to tell if a rat will bite
How to sex a rat and a mouse (whaaaat?)
Signs of illness & disease: 5 signs
Housing considerations
Temperature, humidity, light: dark cycle, space, exercise, alone vs in groups



Rodents in Research

Obtaining animals for research
IACUC
Using male vs female animals
Food and/or water deprivation – circumstances and precautions
Research involving stress and pain
Standardizing the lab environment
Multiple vs single use experimentation

Euthanasia

Euthanasia vs pet giveaway vs other options
Euthanasia criteria
quick, painless, irreversible, acceptable and safe to the person performing it
Live decapitation

Anti-cruelty course policy

Anyone who deliberately mistreats a laboratory animal will receive an automatic F in the lab - and he/she will not be permitted to retake the lab. That F will stay on their transcript.