



**Policy Statement #17–07 Social Housing of Animals**  
**Faculty of Science, Mahidol University–Institutional**  
**Animal Care and Use Committee (MUSC–IACUC)**

Social animals at the MUSC–CAF will be housed in species-appropriate groups to conform to species-specific behaviors.

1. Generally, appropriate social interaction among members of the same species, or compatible species, is essential to normal development and wellbeing.
2. Any PI requests for exempt social housing must provide scientific justification in writing, which must be approved by the IACUC.
3. When necessary, single housing of social animals is permitted but it should be limited to a minimum period, and where possible, use of environmental enrichment is provided. Consideration for single housing includes:
  - a. Social incompatibility
  - b. Experimental reasons: e.g.,
    - behavioral research,
    - the last animal in the cage but not more than seven consecutive days,
    - male breeder before mating but not more than seven consecutive days.
4. Single housing may be implemented without prior IACUC approval for the following reasons:
  - a. Veterinary care, including but not limited to, separating sick or injured animals under veterinarian care, or to separate an aggressive animal from inflicting further injury to its cage mates. In case of animal aggression, PI should be notified. If no action is taken, the animal care and veterinary staff will separate them.
  - b. A male breeder waiting for mating program.