

**EXCEPTIONS TO USDA REGULATIONS**

3.28(b)(3)(i)

“The interior height of any primary enclosure used to confine hamsters shall be at least 6 inches.”

GSU, on occasion, will house dwarf hamsters in 5 inch cages. Documentation indicates that 6 inch cages are detrimental to their growth[Gilman, WC, et al “Effects of the New USDA Cage Height Standard on Body Weights of Weanling and Djungarian Dwarf Hamsters (*Phodopus sungorus*). Contemporary Topics in Lab An Sci, 32(1): 17-19. 1993.]

3.28(b)(3)(ii)

“A nursing female hamster, together with a litter, shall be housed in a primary enclosure which contains no other hamsters...”

All of the GSU breeding female dwarf hamsters with litters are housed with the adult male sire. It is our experience that, unlike common Golden hamsters, the Siberian dwarf hamster male is not injured by the female and he participates in the rearing of the young such that pup survival is higher when the sire is present.

3.31(a)(1)

“[Hamster] enclosures shall be sanitized at least once every 2 weeks...”

GSU, on occasion, does not change hamster cages for up to maximally 4 weeks due to the experimental needs of IACUC approved research involving territorial aggression and circadian rhythms.

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