

July 23 rd , 2015	4	2

- *Weaning*: process of removing a pup from its mother (thereby withdrawing it from the mother's milk supply). Occurs at ~21 days of age in rats.

Animal Care Services, Principal Investigator subcutaneous, intravenous, intraperitoneal intramuscular, per os per rectum

2.

- É Large cages
- É Nesting/bedding material
- É Breeding cage cards
- É Dissection probe
- É Rat chow pellets
- É Hydrogel (purified water gel with hydrocolloids, food acid, electrolyte mix)

3.

Pair-house animals (same sex) for 1 week to habituate to the colony. Place the female rat(s) into the home cage of the male rat, with food and water available ad libitum. The exposure of the females to the male's dirty bedding (specifically, pheromones in the urine), can induce estrous in the females.

Write the date the male is added with the females on each breeding cage card (and in a separate log book if required), and identities Qem92 reW*ñBT/F3 12 Tf

July 23 rd , 2015	4	4

Approximately one week before weaning add a few pellets of rodent chow to the bottom of the cage to introduce the pups to an adult diet (in some cases, T-Gel can be given to the pups). Ensure all pups can access the water spout.

At 21 days of age, robust pups that are an appropriate size are removed from the mother's home cage, sexed and group or singly housed according to protocol. Undersized litters or pups can be left with the mother up to the age of 23 days.

Cage cards are generated through Topaz Elements for each weanling. Diarrhea or constipation are periodic complications of weaning but should resolve within a few days. If there are any concerns regarding the health of the weaned pups (such as marked anorexia or signs of dehydration) notify the veterinary staff, and/or Animal Care Services.

In the adult rat, males and females are easily differentiated. The rat on the right is male.

The anogenital distance is clearly longer in the male than it is in the female. Nipples are also easily identified in the female. Be aware that sexing is more challenging in younger animals. If uncertain, hold pups up to compare genitalia and anogenital distance. Confirm sexing after one week (recheck weaned pups).



