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Mouse husbandry

To standardise the phenotyping procedure and also to save capacity in the animal facility, animals should be housed in groups of four per cage whenever possible. In any case, the minimum number of animals per cage should be three. This can be achieved by genotyping all litters at the time point of weaning, i.e. at the age of three weeks (When using the tail cut for genotyping than excise a maximum of 5 mm piece from the end of tail). Marked animals should be left with their mother until genotyping results are obtained (e.g. age of four weeks).

When weaned, place the young mice with littermates in groups in cages with enrichment. A few days before weaning, the animals should be served some feed pellets on the ground, that the offspring can get used to the food. If the offspring are still quite small when weaned, offer moist food for the first few days. Very small animals can stay with their mother for up to a week longer if necessary, in this case moist food is also obligatory. Mice with different genotypes should be mixed in the cages. If only mutants and control littermates will be analysed by the GMC, additional genotypes should be excluded at this stage. At this early age, putting together males from different litters should not pose a problem.

Animals should be sent to the GMC exactly in the groups in which they were housed at the facility of origin