

## Rodent Identification

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### **Purpose:**

To describe the procedures of individually identifying rodents.

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### **Procedure:**

- 1) Although individual rodent identification is not required, it is strongly recommended. Preferred methods of permanent identification include tattoo, ear punch and subcutaneous microchip implant. Toe clipping for individual identification is allowed on newborn pups in the first week of life, especially in cases where DNA is harvested from the material and requires explicit justification in an IACUC-approved protocol.
- 2) For rodents in which ear punch, tattoo, or subcutaneous microchip implantation is impractical or contraindicated, individual identification will be performed using an ink marker on the base of the tail.
- 3) Markers to be used are identified as “permanent,” and “non-toxic”. Ink color should be sufficiently dark to provide sufficient contrast with the skin color.
- 4) Identification codes are created at the discretion of the Principal Investigator/Study Director. Each code should be unique for a given animal.
- 5) Individual animal codes will be copied onto the appropriate place on the cage card affixed to the housing enclosure.
- 6) Animals identified with non-toxic, indelible ink will be observed by the PI/Study Director at least every three days for maintenance of readable codes. Identification code will be reapplied weekly or more often as needed.