



## AEM policy for single housing of experimental animals

Experimental animals of social species must be housed in groups for both legal and ethical reasons.

However, there may be cases when this is not possible.

The purpose of this policy is to describe rules for single housing of experimental animals in AEM.

The policy is general and there may be individual solutions defined by AEM's veterinarians for certain types of animals and housing locations.

### a. Single housed animals must be tagged.

When animals are housed individually in AEM, rodent cages must be marked with the label below.

Other animal species must be marked with the label or equivalent information provided by other means.

<b>ATTENTION</b>
<b>Single housed animal</b>
<b>From:</b>
<b>Due to:</b>
<small>Fighting (F), Experiment(E), Other (O)</small>

### b. There must be communication between AEM and researcher about single housed animals, and a plan for the animal.

The animal caretakers write to the researchers at regular intervals, at a minimum once per month, about the number of single housed animals in the unit. A plan is agreed upon for the animals, which includes if the animal will be used either for experiments or breeding (time for use must be given) or must be killed (immediately).

### c. Animals that are single housed must be compensated.

The following possibilities exist:

- additional enrichment can be provided (e.g. mouse)
- the animal can be taken out of the cage/stall for exercise/training etc. (e.g. pigs)
- AEM can ensure that the animal can see and/or hear/and/or smell conspecifics in the room

**d. There must be a stated and acceptable reason for single housing.**

Below are examples of acceptable and unacceptable justifications for single housing. If there is doubt whether the reason for single housing is acceptable, AEM's veterinarians must make the decision.

**Acceptable**

**The reasons presented below are acceptable justifications for single housing. However, single housing must be limited to the absolute minimum.**

1. Single housing that is specified in the project authorization ("dyreforsøgstilladelse"): in this case single housing is acceptable, but single housing must be kept to a minimum.
2. Single housing is not specified in the project authorization, but certain conditions make it necessary to single house the animal: these conditions are acceptable, but single housing must be kept to a minimum:
  - Veterinary justification by illness/injury where the animal needs a recovery period without disturbance from caged mates.
  - Short-term single housing in connection with surgical or other experimental procedures where the animal needs a recovery period without disturbance from cage mates.
  - The animals are not compatible, and regrouping has been attempted, or it is considered that regrouping is not possible or will not be useful.
  - Breeding of a litter of pups where there is only one pup of a sex or genotype and where pups of different litters cannot be mixed.
  - Breeding males that are used for different females or removed from the breeding cage for breeding reasons.

**Not acceptable**

1. Single housing which is not described in the project authorization ("dyreforsøgstilladelse") and there is not an acceptable justification.
  - The cage/pen is too small to accommodate more than one animal (this must be foreseen during planning and the experiment may not be able to take place in AEM if the space requirement cannot be met)
  - Single housing for practical or economic reasons.