Institutional Animal Care Program (IACP)	
Title: **Placement of Feed on Cage Bottoms**	
Policy number IACP 025	**Date in Effect**: 01/20/12
Revision 2, 12/10/21	**Re-reviewed Date**: 03/13/26, no changes
In Effect ☒ **Rescinded** ☐	**Date Rescinded**:

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of Principal Investigators and their laboratory personnel who care and manage their laboratory animals at UT San Antonio (UTSA) to abide by this policy.

B) APPLICATION

This applies to all animals that are maintained under UTSA Institutional Animal Care and Use (IACUC)-approved protocols.

C) REFERENCES

1) "*The Guide for the Care and Use Laboratory Animals*" (Guide) 8th edition (2011), pg. 65-66.

D) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1) *The Guide* states:

a) *Feeders should be designed and placed to allow easy access to food and to minimize contamination with urine and feces, and maintained in good condition (P. 66).*

b) *Animals should be fed palatable, uncontaminated diets that meet their nutritional and behavioral needs at least daily, or according to their particular requirements, unless the protocol in which they are being used requires otherwise (P. 65).*

2) The IACUC's interpretation of the Guide is that to minimize contamination, feed/supplement should not be placed directly on the bedding of cage bottom.
3) Exceptions to this policy must be approved in the protocol by the IACUC or by the University Veterinarian (or designee) if it is for clinical purposes. Type and kind of supplemental material must be stated and approved in the protocol by the IACUC.
4) If feed/supplement needs to be placed on the cage bottom, it is to be placed in a container that will act as a barrier between the bedding on the cage floor.

E) PROCEDURES

1) Feed or Supplement <u>should</u> <u>not</u> be placed directly on cage floor. *See figure 1*.

figure 1

2) Feed or supplement should be placed in a container which is then placed on the cage floor.
   a) Commercially produced gel supplements come in a plastic dish that serves has a barrier to the bedding of cage*. See figure 2*

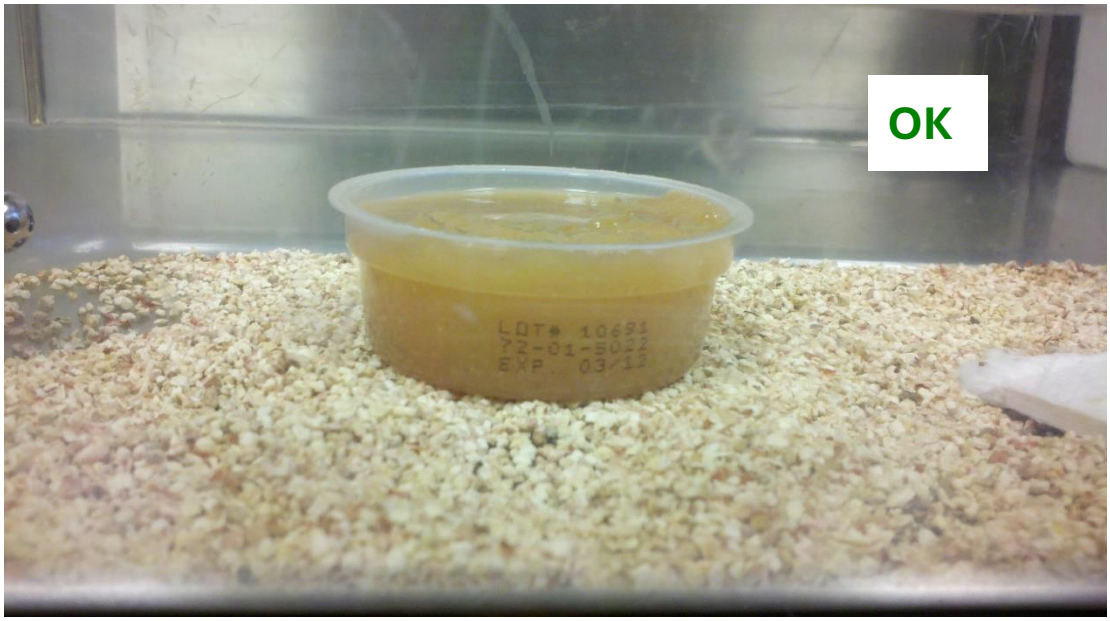

figure 2

b) If not using the entire gel supplement cup, smaller aliquots can be placed in Petri dish. *See figure 3*

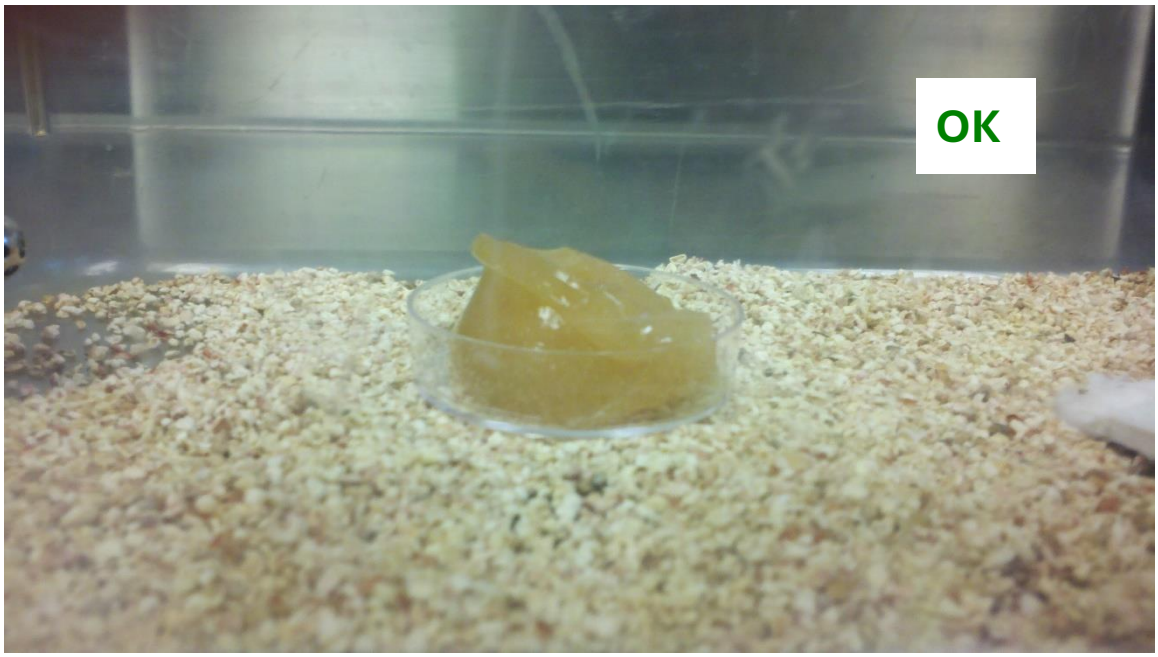

figure 3

c) Dry feed should be placed on a Petri dish. *See figure 4 and 5*

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figure 4

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