

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 403.5

Date Issued: 8/04

Date Revised: 09/22

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TITLE:	Environmental Enrichment and Social Housing
SCOPE:	Personnel with Regular Animal Contact
RESPONSIBILITY:	Facility Manager, Technical Staff, Veterinary Staff
PURPOSE:	To Outline Circumstances, Forms, and Procedures of Providing Enrichment

I. PURPOSE

1. To ensure the highest quality of health among animals used for research and teaching purposes, and to ensure the consistency and integrity of research data.

**enclosure of open
are group housed**

II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The Veterinarians and program staff.
2. The Facility Manager and Principal Investigator procedures.
3. The animal care staff for daily observations and observations regarding
4. Any environmental researcher prior to
5. Every effort should auditory, and/or olfactory
6. When USDA-covered plan should be developed included as part of

III. GENERAL PROCEDURES

ferrets form, whenever realistic and feasible, maintaining ferrets in trios, rather than pairs, should be considered. This can ameliorate some of the clinical and behavioral abnormalities that can be seen with the loss of a mate.

- b. All ferrets receive environmental enrichment, unless an exemption has been approved in writing by the IACUC.
- c. All enrichment items should be able to be easily cleaned and sanitized.
- d.