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1.0 OBJECTIVE

1.1 The objective of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the characteristics of mice from birth to four weeks of age.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 This SOP applies to all mice born at the MMRI animal facility.

3.0 POLICY

3.1 It is the policy of MMRI to establish written and approved procedures to assure that the animals are treated in a humane manner according to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and educating personnel utilizing animals in their research.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 It is the responsibility of Manager of Animal Research or designated alternate to implement this SOP and revise it when necessary.

5.0 REFERENCES

5.1 UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals.

6.0 PROCEDURE

Characteristics of mice from birth to four weeks of age:

Birth	Blood red skin color
1 day	Lighter red skin color. Milk visible in stomach
2 days	Lighter skin color. Ears flat against the head
3 days	Ear elevated about 45° away from the head
4 days	Ear elevated about 90° away from the head
5 days	Skin thicker. Milk no longer visible in stomach

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6 days Fur starts as fine stubble over back. 7 days Complete coat of fine fuzzy hair is visible 8 days Lower incisors visible but not erupted 9 days Inguinal nipples visible in females. Lower incisors erupted 10 days Upper incisors erupted. 11 days 13-14 days Eyelids open. Slit-like palpebral opening 3 weeks Oval palpebral opening, fine soft fur, triangular-shaped head Round palpebral opening, smooth fur, trapezoidal-shaped head 4 weeks