Mouse Breeding

Mating:

- Males mature at 6 weeks
- Females mature between 5-8 weeks
- Mate older males with younger females if possible.
- Feed breeding pairs **breeder mixed feed** and supplement with peanut butter to reduce cannibalism.
- Give breeders Kim-wipes for nesting to help alleviate stress and improve breeding.
- Triads work well for stubborn breeders. Two females to one male.

Pregnant and Recently delivered:

- Handle pregnant mice or mothers that have recently delivered as little as possible.
  - I would recommend waiting one week after delivery before handling mother and pups if possible.
- Gestation is 18-23 days depending on strain.
- Wean pups between 3-4 weeks. If it’s not possible to determine the sex of the pups at weaning, house them together in a cage. However, by 4-5 weeks you should be able to determine sex and put males and females in separate cages.

Potential problems that may interfere with breeding or delivery success:

- Perfumes and strong odors can decrease breeding performance. Avoid using hand lotions or wear gloves while handling animals.
- Changes in noise and vibration levels can decrease breeding performance and increase cannibalism.
- Try to reduce foot traffic in and out of the breeding room and avoid disturbing breeding pairs as much as possible.
- Do not euthanize animals or perform other procedures in the breeding rooms.