

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

SOP#: 403.5

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

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**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 caged  
are group housed**

**II. RESPONSIBILITY**

1. The Veterinarians and program staff.
2. The Facility Manager and Principal Investigator develop procedures.
3. The animal care staff perform daily observations and observations regarding animal health.
4. Any environmental changes must be approved by the researcher prior to implementation.
5. Every effort should be made to provide visual, auditory, and/or olfactory enrichment.
6. When USDA-covered procedures are used, a plan should be developed and included as part of the protocol.

**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.