



Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

SEXING RODENTS

Number: HUS 03

Version: 2.1

Date: 01/10/08

Date of Approval: 01/10/08

Reviewed:

DATE	2009-2013	15/4/14	20/7/16		
REVIEWER	Reviewed Annually by Dr Beng Hooi Chua	Dr Tara Pike	Dr Tara Pike		

Aim/Purpose: Describes the procedure for sexing mice and rats.

ALL ANIMALS MUST BE HANDLED HUMANELY i.e. carefully and kindly.

1. Restrain the mouse or rat as detailed in handling SOP. For sexing adult animals it is usually sufficient to place the animal on a cage lid and grasp the base of the tail so that the genitalia are easily seen.
2. Find genital region.
3. Observe anogenital distance.
4. Neonates:
 - a. Females
 - i. Shorter anogenital distance
 - ii. Conspicuous row of nipples after 9 days.
 - b. Males
 - i. A larger anogenital distance, 1.5-2 times greater.
 - ii. A larger genital papilla.
5. Adults
 - a. Adults sexed as for neonates
 - b. Females typically smaller with a bilateral row of nipples
 - c. Males are typically larger with their testicles frequently dropped in the scrotum.



6. Sexing is easier to do by comparing litter mates.

