COMPATIBLE GROUPING

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure or near other primary enclosures must be compatible. [3.7, 3.33, 3.58, 3.81 3.109, 3.133]

Animals housed in same primary enclosure

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible.

Criteria

Animals are incompatible if one or more of the following criteria are present:

- sick animals with communicable diseases, such as upper respiratory infections or ringworm, housed with healthy animals
- overly aggressive or vicious behavior
- evidence of extensive wounds, especially around neck and face
- ruffled or thin hair coat with signs of skin trauma, e.g., scratches or bites
- access to food, water and/or shelter restricted by another animal

Species Specific

Dogs & Cats

The following animals may be housed together:

- females in heat with males for the purpose of breeding [3.7(a)]
- puppies or kittens 4 months of age or less with adults if:
 [3.7(c)]
 - with the dam, or
 - with a foster dam, or
 - in a permanent compatible breeding colony

Dogs and cats may be housed with other species only if all the animals are compatible. [3.7(d)]

Guinea Pigs & Hamsters

Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs must **not** be housed in the same primary enclosure with any other species of animal. [3.33(b)]

Preweanling guinea pigs must be housed only: [3.33(a)]

- with the dam alone, or
- in harem breeding colonies

Guinea pigs under quarantine or treatment for a communicable disease must be housed separately from other guinea pigs, hamsters or susceptible animals to minimize dissemination of the disease. [3.33(c)]

Examples of separate housing include, but are not limited to:

- different cages
- different parts of the room
- separate rooms

Hamsters

Hamsters must **NOT** be housed in the same primary enclosure with any other species. [3.33(b)]

Nursing females with litters must not be housed with other hamsters. [3.28(b)(3)(ii)]

Hamsters under quarantine or treatment for a communicable disease must be housed separately from other hamsters, guinea pigs, or susceptible animals to minimize dissemination of the disease. [3.33(c)]

Examples of separate housing include, but are not limited to:

- different cages
- different parts of the room
- separate rooms

Rabbits

Rabbits must NOT be housed in the same primary enclosure with any other species except if: [3.58(a)]

- scientifically justified in a protocol, and
- approved by the IACUC

Nonhuman Primates

Social grouping must be addressed in the facility's Environmental Enhancement Plan. [3.81(a)]

When possible, nonhuman primates must be housed in compatible social groups.

Exception: The following nonhuman primates may be housed separately: [3.81(a)(1) and 3.81(a)(2)]

- animals exhibiting vicious or overly aggressive behavior
 [3.81(a)(1)]
- debilitated animals, e.g., aged, arthritic, sick and/or infirmed
 [3.81(a)(1)]
- animals with contagious disease [3.81(a)(2)]

Individually housed nonhuman primates must be able to see and hear other nonhuman primates. [3.81(a)(3)]

NOTE: This requirement may be modified by:

- attending veterinarian for the health, safety, or well-being of the animal [3.81(a)(3)]
- the IACUC for scientific reasons set forth in a protocol [3.81(e)(2)]

Marine Mammals [3.109]

Captive marine mammals which are social in the wild must be housed with at least one compatible animal of:

- the same species, or
- a biologically related species.

NOTE: Attending veterinarian in consultation with the husbandry/training staff may modify this requirement for the health, or well-being of the animal.

Animals housed separately must have a written plan:

- approved by the attending veterinarian
- developed in consultation with the husbandry and training staff
- including the following:
 - justification for the length of time that the animal will be kept separated or isolated
 - the type and frequency of enrichment and interaction, if appropriate
 - provisions for periodic review of the plan by the attending veterinarian

Marine mammals separated for nonmedical purposes must be held in facilities that meet required minimum space requirements.

Animals housed near other animals

Animals housed near each other must be compatible. [3.133]

Criteria

Animals housed near other animals may be **incompatible** if the following behaviors are noted:

- cowering in corner or hiding
- excessive pacing
- excessive vocalization
- off feed
- self-mutilation such as biting
- lack of normal socialization with other animals

Animals that can see or have access to each other may be incompatible if there is interference with any animal's health and well-being including, but not limited to:

- disease transmission, such as bordetella between guinea pigs and rabbits, or pseudomonas between dogs and primates
- fighting through common barriers, such as chain link fences
- inadequate space for flight, comfort, or hiding

NOTE: Inspector should use professional judgment in determining incompatibility in a specific situation, such as a predatory species being housed near a prey species.

Species Specific

Marine Mammals [3.109]

Marine mammals must not be housed near other animals that:

- cause them unreasonable stress
- cause them discomfort
- interfere with their good health