

5. The User is responsible the quality of the data.

The Core does not have personnel to train users, analyze data, or ensure that data are being collected or backed up properly. Although we will make our best efforts to help users when possible, it is the users' responsibility to understand how the equipment works, how the data are collected, what kind(s) of data to expect, and how to analyze them. It is also the user's responsibility to back up the data immediately after collecting them. If it is the first time a user is collecting data with a particular apparatus, especially when generating complex data, it is advisable to run a small pilot study first.

6. The User must leave the equipment in good working order.

The equipment in the core does not belong to the core. Other UTHSC investigators have generously loaned their expensive equipment to the core for the greater good. The condition of the room and equipment are inspected after each core user is finished; thus if anything is not working properly notify the Core Director *before* initiating the behavioral testing session. The principal investigator will be expected to repair or replace any broken equipment. Failure to report broken equipment will result in the loss of user privileges.

7. The User must clean the equipment and room thoroughly after each use.

The User is responsible for cleaning the equipment after use, as well as supplying the cleaning supplies and agents. The Core will be inspected daily to ensure that each user has cleaned up after using the rooms. Failure to clean equipment properly will result in the loss of user privileges; thus if you find the equipment dirty at the beginning of a session, notify the Core Director immediately. Cleaning behavioral equipment can typically be achieved with a low concentration of ethanol (15-25%). Note that high concentrations of ethanol will cause acrylic to crack so they must not be used. It is good practice to clean an apparatus after every subject, not just at the end of a testing session.

8. All animal care is the responsibility of the User and Principal Investigator.

DAC personnel will treat mice involved in behavioral studies the same as any other mouse. Thus mice on free-feeding schedules will be provided with food and water by DAC personnel, but cages with cage cards indicating dietary restriction are the responsibility of the Core user and Principal Investigator. The Core personnel will not feed mice or change bedding. Because some mice can die after a single day without food, it is essential that **every mouse be fed every day, including weekends and holidays**. If there are any questions concerning appropriate food-restriction regimens for behavioral testing, consult with the Core personnel or DAC personnel.

9. All procedures involving live animals must be pre-approved by the IACUC.

The Core does not have an IACUC protocol for any procedure. Thus all activity within the Core must be conducted under the Principal Investigator's approved protocols.

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Principal Investigator: [Signature] Date: 5/1/25

Print PI Name: Jon JAGGAR

Core Director: _____ Date: _____