Basic Mouse Aging and Sexing

Laboratory Animal Services

2006
How to Age pups
1 day old mice are very red, helpless and hairless. The ears and eyes are shut. If they are nursing, milk can easily be seen in the stomach.

At day 2 the pups are less red, more pink. Milk can still be seen in the stomach.

By day 3, the ear flaps will begin to open. If the pups are going to be black or agouti, the skin pigment begins to develop.
and more pups

On day 4 the ears are erect and milk is no longer visible in the stomach

By day 5, the pups will begin to develop light, fuzzy dorsal fur

At day 6 the fur is thicker across the shoulders and the coat color may be evident
and more pups

By day 7 the back of the pups is completely covered in fur.

Day 8, the belly is beginning to show fur

On day 9 the fur is thicker. Females will have five pairs of conspicuous nipples while the males will be much less obvious.
and more pups

Day 10, the fur growth is complete and muscular activity is increased.

By day 11 the teeth are beginning to erupt and the eyes start to open.

At days 12, 13 and 14, the eyes are mostly open and they begin to nibble of solid food.
and more pups

By 3 weeks of age the pups become very active (popcorn stage)

These pups are 3 weeks of age and ready to be weaned.
How to Sex mice

Sexing by anogenital distance

Female
Male
scrotum

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