Health Checking with an Enviropak

**What if you see ...?**

Follow the flowchart found in the health check SOP to assess overall cage health when health checking with an enviropak. Often clues from the cage will indicate the health status of the mice within the cage.

Listed below are easily identifiable indicators of nesting behaviors in mice. This is neither a comprehensive nor specific list, and as such, other observations should be taken into account when assessing health status in mice. Please contact ULAM training core for additional assistance with identification of a healthy cage.

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**Nest Quality**

- **Good Nest**
  - Well Formed Dome
- **Poor Nest**
  - Flat/Not Well Formed

**Cage Organization**

- **Good Cage Organization**
  - Nest is located away from urine site
- **Poor Cage Organization**
  - Nest is interspersed with soiled materials

**Social Behavior**

- **Good Social Behavior**
  - Animals nesting together
- **Poor Social Behavior**
  - Animals nesting separately

**Tips**

- **Singly housed mouse or weanlings**
  - Tear Enviropak in half to prevent nesting inside
- **Urine stained and flat nest**
  - *Monitor Closely for Aggression*
- **Using enrichment items?**
  - *If not, monitor closely for health issues*

**24 Hour Nest Progression for 5 Adult C57bl/6 Mice**

- **0 Hour**: Nest starting to form
- **1 Hour**: Nest taking shape
- **2 Hour**: Nest more defined
- **3 Hour**: Nest almost complete
- **4 Hour**: Nest almost complete
- **5 Hour**: Nest almost complete
- **6 Hour**: Nest mostly formed
- **7 Hour**: Nest forming dome
- **8 Hour**: Nest forming dome
- **24 Hour**: Nest fully formed with Enviropak integrated

*Different Strains and Cage Densities May Vary*

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References: Health Check SOP - Flow Chart