

iv) Numerical score sheet for assessing neonatal genetically modified rodents

WELFARE ASSESSMENT SHEET FOR NEONATAL MICE AND RATS

Parameter (neonates)	Animal ID							
	Age							
Appearance/colour (see colour chart)*	Normal (pink)	0						
	Pink/blue abdomen	1						
	Pink/pale extremities	2						
	Blue/pale	3						
Surface temperature	Warm	0						
	?	1						
	Cold	2						
Natural activity	Wriggling ++	0						
	Wriggling +	1						
	+/-	2						
	Still	3						
Reflexes/respond to touch	+++ righting reflex +	0						
	++, righting reflex +/-	1						
	+	2						
	-	3						
Milk in stomach	++	0						
	+	1						
	-	2						
TOTAL SCORE (Neonate)	0-13							
Parameter (mother)	NB Include Milk Score							
Nest building	Good nest making	0						
	Some nest making	1						
	No nest	2						
Retrieval of young	Always	0						
	Sometimes	1						
	Never	2						
TOTAL SCORE (Mother)	0-6							

Judgement: Neonate

0-4 = Good

5-8 = Fair

9-12 = Poor

Always assess maternal factors as well. Maternal score 5-6 = Will these animals need fostering?

* The sheet is used in conjunction with a laminated 'colour chart' that provides guidance on the range of normal skin colours for neonates on days 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 following birth.