The University of Kansas (KU)
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Standard Operating Procedure
Pigeon Enrichment

1.0  Scope and Application

As promulgated in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, the aim of environmental enrichment is to enhance animal well-being by providing animals with sensory and motor stimulation through structures and resources that facilitate the expression of species-typical behaviors and promote psychological well-being through physical exercise, manipulative activities, and cognitive challenges. In accordance with the *Guide*, enrichment programs should be reviewed by the IACUC, researchers, and veterinarian on a regular basis to ensure animal well-being and consistency with animal use goals. To ensure conformance with Guide standards, the following program of enrichment for pigeons is established.

2.0  Summary of Method

**Enrichment strategy**

- Birds are provided with both toys and perches

- Perches are provided at all times

- Manipulanda is provided as part of the enrichment program. These items may include, but are not limited to, Olympia Rings, jingle balls, and Caterpillar toys. Toys are rotated on a weekly basis by toy type.

- Any non-disposable items are sanitized at least every two weeks. Disposable items are replaced at cage change or as needed.

- Any change to enrichment or enrichment strategies must be approved by an ACU veterinarian and the principle investigator prior to implementation

Author: ACU