Separation of Species

Separation of mammalian species is recommended to reduce disease transmission between species and should be accomplished by housing different species in different animal housing rooms.

Avian species should be separated if space is available. However, as long as the species have the same physiological requirements and are not known disease carriers, they may be housed in the same facility.

Aquatic and amphibian species may be housed in the same room. However, separate nets and cleaning tools should be used to prevent cross-contamination between aquaria. Also, care should be taken in recirculating systems that the water is appropriately decontaminated before being circulated among various species tanks.

Rats and mice may be housed in the same room, such as a light-deprivation room, for no more than 10 days at a time. The animals should be separated as much as possible (different shelves) and not known to be disease carriers.

Animals of different species with similar physiological requirements may be housed in the same Biosafety level 2 or 3 rooms when in isolators.