Purpose
It is the purpose of this policy to provide ethical, practical, humane, and reasonable methods for housing social animals of Creighton University-owned animals. In every circumstance, Creighton will adhere to all animal use laws, rules, regulations, and guidelines including those described in the “9 CFR,” the PHS Policy, the Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, AAALAC, and international, state and local laws.

Application
Social housing is the default method of housing unless otherwise justified based on social incompatibility resulting from inappropriate behavior, standard social animals husbandry practices, veterinary concerns regarding animal well-being, or scientific necessity approved by the IACUC and reviewed during semi-annual inspection process. In general, social animals must be housed in stable pairs or groups of compatible individuals. If singly housing animals is deemed necessary, it should be limited to the minimum period necessary and animals should be rehoused with other appropriate conspecifics if possible. During single housing, where possible, visual, auditory, olfactory and, depending on the species, protected tactile contact with compatible conspecifics should be provided. In the absence of other animals, additional enrichment should be offered, such as positive interaction with humans, periodic release into larger enclosures, supplemental enrichment items, and/or the addition of a companion animal in the room or housing area.