

Zebrafish Stocking Density

The UM IACUC **recommends** a stocking density of 5 fish per liter for adult zebrafish. This is the stocking density recommended in the 8th edition of The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

However, based on current research, **up to 12 adult fish (3 months of age and older) per liter** may be permitted with justification and provided no animal welfare issues are identified.

Stocking densities for zebrafish in the young and larval stages may be significantly higher.

References:

1. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition. Natl. Academic Press (2013). 83
2. Matthews, M., Trevarrow, B. & Matthews, J. (2002) 'A virtual tour of the Guide for zebrafish users' Lab Animal 31 (3), p34-40
3. Brand, M., Granato, M. & Nüsslein-Volhard, C. (2002) 'Keeping and raising zebrafish' in NüssleinVolhard & Dahm (2002) Zebrafish - A Practical Approach ; Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK.
4. Vargesson, N.A. (2007) 'Zebrafish' in Manual of Animal Technology (ed. S. Barnett) Blackwell Publishing Ltd: Oxford, UK.
5. Castranova, D., et al. (2011). The Effect of Stocking Densities on Reproductive Performance in Laboratory Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). Zebrafish, 8(3), 141-146.
doi:10.1089/zeb.2011.0688
6. B. Reed and M. Jennings, "Guidance on the housing and care of zebrafish *danio rerio*, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Hor-sham, UK, 2011.