

## Tech Tip: Identifying Mouse Genders in Neonates

*By Amanda Ogden, RVT, RLATG, Rodent Breeding Colony Manager, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine, UCLA*

After several unsuccessful attempts to identify the gender of neonate mice, one of our investigators enlightened us regarding an anatomical feature that could be referenced instead of the routine anogenital distance for the determination of gender. The presence of a black dot at the midpoint of the anogenital divide signifies male gender, and the absence of this dot indicates female. This dot is visible to the naked eye as early as day 0

or 1. Applying this method to roughly 100 neonates, we have had a 100% success rate with black mice, and a 90% success rate with white mice. Sufficient numbers of agouti mouse neonates have not yet been observed to estimate a success rate for this method. This technique has proven to be extremely beneficial for researchers who need to discern gender ratios or who may require specific genders for projects.

The author wishes to thank Ling Hu and Jacqueline Pleitez for their technical assistance and Jerry Werk for her editorial advice.

