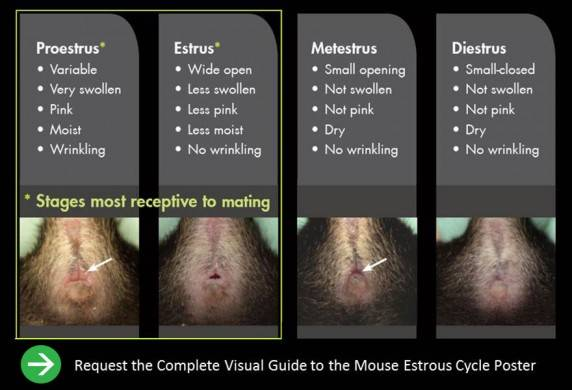
**Timed Mouse Pregnancies**

* Isolate stud males for at least 1 week after previous mating
  + Either use older males (3-4 months) or proven studs
* Use 8-week-old females
  + Ideally 8-9 weeks (sexual maturity)
  + Nothing over 15 weeks (less reliable)
* House females together for 10-14 days
  + Synch estrous cycle
  + Increase length of diestrus phase
* Introduce soiled bedding from male cage 3 days before mating date
  + Syncs the female estrous cycles because of pheromone in male urine
* Only chose females in proestrus or estrus phase of estrous cycle in the afternoon
  + Examine outer genitalia for coloring, swelling, opening
* Add 1 or 2 females to each stud male’s cage
* Check for vaginal plugs in the morning
  + Indication that the mice have mated
  + NOT ALWAYS an indication of pregnancy
  + If present, consider this gestational day 0



**Tentative Schedule**

Day -14

* Wednesday
* House 8-week-old females together

Day -7

* Wednesday
* House 3-month-old males individually

Day -3

* Monday
* Introduce male bedding to female cage

Day -1

* Tuesday
* Add 1-2 females to each male cage

Day 0

* Wednesday
* Check for vaginal plug
  + If present, mark as day 0

Days 1-15

* Check progress/ health periodically

Day 15

* Thursday
* Collect embryos