Mouse Colony Breeding Costs

(Adapted from: "Breeding Strategies for Maintaining Colonies of Laboratory Mice", The Jackson Laboratory, 2009)

Maintenance cost per mouse cage (average of US academic institutions in 2009):	US $550 per year, US $10.60 per week
ABR cage rate (2018)	$10.70 per week ($556.40 per year)

Cost of Maintenance Breeding

"Keep one strain ticking over for one year - no animals are used."

Cage requirement:	2 breeder cages + 4 wean/holding cages	
Cage costs:	6 cages x $556.40 per cage-year =	$3,338.40

Mouse Usage Scenario #1

"We need 20 age-matched mice per week of either sex, for one year."

Total number of mice used:		1040
Cage requirement:	31 breeder cages + 6 wean/holding cages	
Cage costs:	37 cages x $556.40 per cage-year =	$20,586.80
Cost per mouse:		$19.80 (*)

Mouse Usage Scenario #2

"We need 20 age-matched FEMALE mice per week, for one year."

(Same as scenario #1, but only 50% of the mice produced can be used).

Total number of mice used:	1040
Cost per mouse:	$39.60 (*)

Mouse Usage Scenario #3

"We need 40 age-matched mice every other week of either sex, for one year."

Total number of mice used:		1040
Cage requirement:	62 breeder cages + 20 wean/holding cages	
Cage costs:	82 cages x $556.40 per cage-year =	$45,624.80
Cost per mouse:		$43.80 (*)

Mouse Usage Scenario #4

"We need 40 age-matched FEMALE mice every other week, for one year."

(Same as scenario #3, but only 50% of the mice produced can be used).

Total number of mice used:	1040
Cost per mouse:	$87.74 (*)

(*) Does not include the cost of genotyping