Supplementary Table S1: Demographic and condition variables of the rat population. Apart from characterizing the population, specific goals were targeted for each variable.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | Type | Levels | Goal | References |
| Body weight | Continuous | Weight in grams | estimate age in days and the scaled mass index (Smi)  | Panti-May *et al.* (2016); Peig and Green (2009) |
| Body length | Continuous | Length from nose to anus in millimeters | estimate Smi  | Peig and Green (2009) |
| Sex | Categorical | Male |  |  |
|  |  | Female |  |
| Placental scars | Binomial | Presence/Absence | Estimate maturity: if present, then mature |  |
| Pregnancya | Binomial | Presence/Absence | Estimate maturity: if present, then mature |  |
| Lactating | Binomial | Presence/Absence | Estimate maturity: if present, then mature |  |
| Scrotal testes | Binomial | Presence/Absence | Estimate maturity: if present, then mature |  |
| Convoluted seminal vesicles | Binomial | Presence/Absence | Estimate maturity: if present, then mature |  |
| Internal fat | Binomial | Presence/Absence |  | Himsworth *et al.* (2014)  |
| Wounds | Binomial | Presence/Absence |   | Glass *et al.* (1988) |
| a if pregnant, but no placental scars were observed, then the female was classified as ‘young-mature’  |