Mice (particularly males) may fight and can inflict severe wounds on each other. This behavior is strain related with DBA, Swiss (CD-1, SJL, FVB) and BALB/c males being particularly aggressive. Fight wounds are typically inflicted along the lumbar region (back), genital region (perianal, testicles and prepuce), limbs and tail. Severe wounds can result in tissue necrosis (death) and may become locally infected. Occasionally animals can develop systemic infections secondary to severe fight wounds. Trauma to the prepuce can also result in paraphimosis (penile prolapse) that renders these animals unable to breed.

Persistent fighting, resulting in wounding, can significantly impact the immune system via upregulation of inflammatory pathways. Prevention or reduction of aggression can occur by:

- Maintaining male cohorts in natal groups and avoid introducing new males into the group.
- Providing appropriate enrichment to the home cage.
- Reducing disruption of the social hierarchy by maintaining cage olfactory cues (transferring a portion of dirty bedding or nesting materials into the new home cage).
- Separating aggressive animals. Removal (i.e. culling) of aggressive animals from breeding colonies has also been shown to reduce the overall injury and mortality rates in mouse colonies (Edmon et. al., *Contemp Top Lab Anim Sci.*, 2003).

Treatment for mild and moderate wound may involve wound cleaning with application of a topical antibiotic ointment. Severe, debilitating wounds may require the administration of systemic antibiotics and pain medication to support the animals until the infection resolves and wounds heal.