

THE SPAPER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Happy Fall!

As we head into fall, we are continuing our one focus on something we believe deserves more attention in biomedical research; bedding.

Bedding is a commonly overlooked variable, yet not all bedding materials are created the same. Differences in materials, processing, sourcing and testing can have an impact on your research environment.

Our goal is to help educate the industry about differences and provide researchers with the necessary information they need to make informed bedding choices.

Because when it comes to research, every variable matters.

Table of Contents

- 1- Introduction
- 2- AALAS Presentation
- 3- What's in your cage
- 4- Sustainable Source
- 5- Research Worth Reading
- 6- Paper is not paper
- 7- Myth Busters
- 8- Upcoming Events

Please note that our offices will be closed on the following dates this quarter:
Thursday, 11/26 & Friday 11/27.

Don't Miss

OUR PRESENTATION

AALAS 2026

October 27
 10:35 AM
 Teach & Chat

IS ALL PAPER CREATED EQUAL?

WHAT'S ACTUALLY IN YOUR CAGE?

Bedding and Enrichment aren't just supplies. They're variables inside the cage.

ALPHA-dri®

Virgin cellulose. 554% absorption. Independently Tested.

[Learn more ->](#)

ALPHA-dri® PLUS

Bedding + nesting enrichment. Designed around mouse behavior.

[Learn more ->](#)

Shepherd Shacks®

Nest. Hide. Rest. Purpose made paper enrichment.

[Learn more ->](#)

THE MATERIALS YOU CHOOSE MATTER.



MATERIAL SOURCE



TESTING & CONTAMINANTS



ABSORPTION PERFORMANCE



CONSISTENT PROCESSING

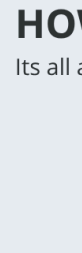
Better Inputs. Better Research.

[EXPLORE ALL PRODUCTS ->](#)

MYTH BUSTERS

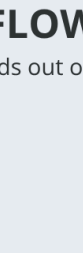
THE DISTRIBUTION MYTH

ALPHA-dri® cannot be dispensed in the same system that dispenses corncob.



MYTH

ALPHA-dri® cannot be dispensed in the same system that dispenses corncob.

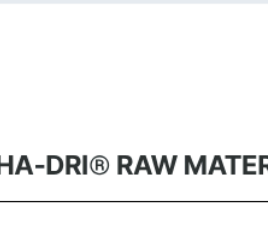


FACT

ALPHA-dri® can be dispensed in the same system. The fix is simple we do it all the time!

HOW VIBRATION CHANGES THE FLOW

It's all about the angle of repose, how easily a material spreads out or piles up.



Without vibration, material sits at a higher angle and can bridge/stop flow.



With vibration, material flows more easily and maintains a lower angle.



ADD VIBRATION TO YOUR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Adjust apertures. Run only when filling cages.

Problem solved!

ALPHA-DRI® RAW MATERIAL

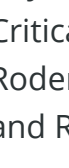
SUSTAINABLE SOURCE SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH



100% RESPONSIBLY SOURCED



1:1 TREE GROWTH COMMITMENT



90% US GROWN FIBER



0% PRODUCTION WASTE

RESPONSIBLE FIBER SOURCING

- Supports responsible forest management
- Protects biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- Supplier verification and chain-of-custody controls provide sourcing transparency
- Aligned with a robust third-party certification standard

WHY IT MATTERS

Responsible sourcing ensures reliable access to high-quality materials for reliable research.

Research Worth Reading

Beyond Comfort: A Review of the Critical Role of Bedding Selection in Rodent Welfare, Microenvironment, and Research Reproducibility.

[Learn More ->](#)

Bedding as a Variable Affecting Fasting Blood Glucose and Vascular Physiology in Mice.

[Learn More ->](#)

PAPER IS NOT PAPER

SAME CATEGORY. DIFFERENT RESULTS
Independent testing shows important differences

ABSORBENCY

ISO 11948-1

554%

ALPHA-dri®

186%

Pelleted Paper

BRIGHTNESS

ANSI/TAPPI T 525

87.6

/100

64.3

/100

PFOS

EPA 537 IDA

Non-Detect

ALPHA-dri®

1,500 PPT

Pelleted Paper

The Takeaway:
Paper bedding can look similar, but testing can tell a very different story

[Learn More ->](#)

Ask The Bedding Experts

Why does the processing of paper bedding matter?

Most paper bedding may start with cellulose fiber, but what happens next can make a difference.

Some paper bedding is **processed into pellets**, which requires additional steps and materials to help the fiber bind and hold its shape.

Those differences in processing can affect the characteristics of the finished bedding, including **absorbency, consistency, and what is ultimately introduced into the cage.**

The takeaway:

Don't just ask if it's paper. Ask how the paper was processed.

“

This isn't about what's been done before. It's about what we can learn, improve, and do better for research.



”

Reproducibility

Validation

Purity

Translatability

Accuracy

Consistency

Discovery

Quality

Science

Excellence

Teamwork

Comfort

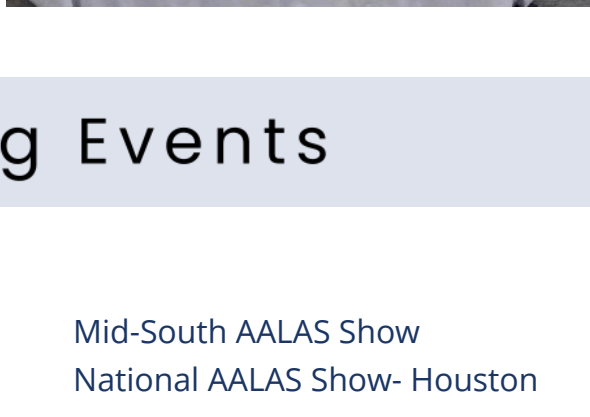
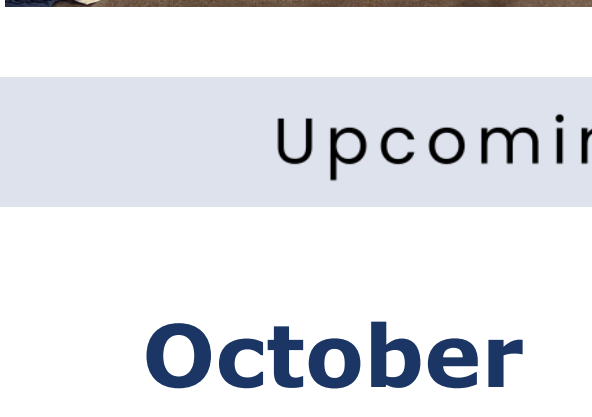
Integrity

Confidence

Reliability

Shepherd On The Road

Out & About With Our Peeps!



Upcoming Events

October

Mid-South AALAS Show
National AALAS Show- Houston

November

NEBAALAS @ Night

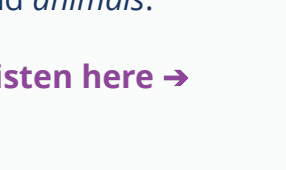
December

SCAW Winter Conference

Industry Partners



The 3Rs Collaborative



GetReal!



BRAD

The 3RS

The 3Rs Collaborative (3RsC) is a nonprofit guiding the research community toward ethical animal research. By uniting science-driven expertise with a commitment to...

[Read more ->](#)

Episodes — GetReal!

GetReal! lays out the facts so you have the power to make informed decisions about the future health of your loved ones - both people and animals.

[Listen here ->](#)

BRAD

Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) is an international outreach program through AMP that seeks to increase public awareness about animal roles...

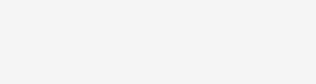
[Read more ->](#)

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Shepherd manufactures high quality, virgin cellulose bedding for biomedical research, with a focus on research integrity and full transparency in material sourcing.

[I want to learn more ->](#)

[Contact Us](#)



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Email Sent to:
unsubscribe from all emails

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