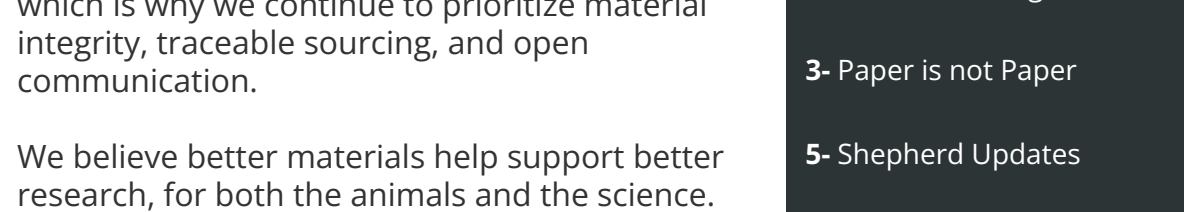




THE PAPER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Happy Summer!

This summer, our focus remains the same: supporting research with reliable, transparent bedding materials researchers can trust.

In biomedical research, consistency matters, which is why we continue to prioritize material integrity, traceable sourcing, and open communication.

We believe better materials help support better research, for both the animals and the science.

Don't miss our Exhibitor Teach & Chat session at this years National AALAS show in Houston on 10/27 @ 10:35 am

Table Of Contents

- 1- Introduction
- 2- Sustainability
- 3- Paper is not Paper
- 4- Notable Findings
- 5- Shepherd Updates
- 6- Out and About
- 7- Upcoming Events
- 8- Industry Partners

Please note that our offices will be closed on the following dates this quarter:
Monday 09/07.

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.

Transparency Matters



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

This review addresses the critical but often underrepresented influence of bedding selection on rodent welfare, cage microenvironment, occupational health, and research outcomes in biomedical studies. Although contact bedding is widely

Published Central (PNC)

[Click Here](#)



Corncob Bedding Negatively Impacts Breeding Performance and Sexual Development in Mice

Corncob bedding is commonly used for housing rodents in research, but previous work has linked cornbeds to altered

bioRxiv

[Click Here](#)

“The world will never be a better place if no one is brave enough to do the right thing.”

- Judy Hopps



PAPER IS NOT PAPER

Bedding Type	Test	Result
ALPHA-dri®	Absorbency - Whole Product (ISO 11948-1)	327 g of fluid (554% of its own weight)
Pelleted Paper	Absorbency - Whole Product (ISO 11948-1)	136 g of fluid (186% of its own weight)
ALPHA-dri®	Brightness (ANSI/TAPPI T 525)	87.6/100
Pelleted Paper	Brightness (ANSI/TAPPI T 525)	64.3/100
ALPHA-dri®	Pfas Chemical Test (EPA 537 IDA)	Non-Detect
Pelleted Paper	Pfas Chemical Test (EPA 537 IDA)	PFOS Result: 1,500 PPT

[Contact Us](#)

Shepherd is getting a new purpose-built production space.

Built on High Standards. Raised even higher.

- ✓ A brand new production facility
- ✓ Expanded production capabilities to support high-volume conversions
- ✓ Expanded space for greater control and scalability
- ✓ Dedicated clean room environment
- ✓ Increased consistency across every batch
- ✓ Strengthened quality control processes
- ✓ Designed to support even greater research reliability

Ask The Bedding Experts

Why does brightness matter?

- Brightness is more than a cosmetic feature. Consistently bright bedding makes it easier to monitor cage conditions, observe waste, and identify potential changes in animal health. Because ALPHA-dri® is made from hygienic grade virgin cellulose, it provides a clean, uniform appearance that supports consistency and visibility throughout your facility.



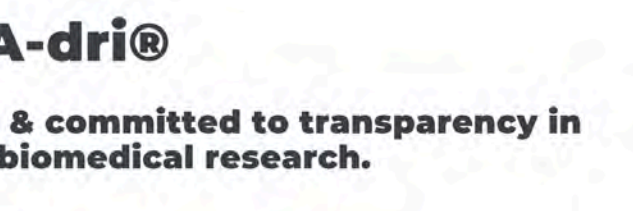
Notable Findings

ALPHA-dri® appears frequently in research publications where a clean, low dust, consistent, virgin paper bedding is important, for example in metabolic, intestinal, behavioral, environmental monitoring, and thermoregulatory research.



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

[read more](#)



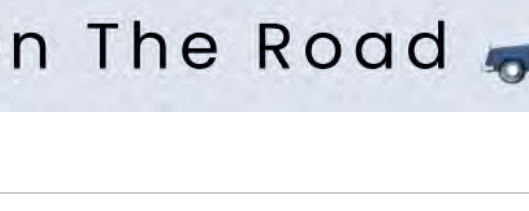
Bedding as a variable affecting fasting blood glucose and vascular physiology in mice

[read more](#)



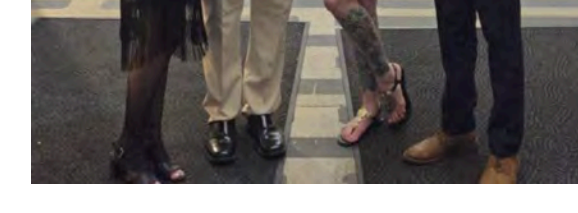
Corncob Bedding Negatively Impacts Breeding Performance and Sexual Development in Mice.

[read more](#)



Assessment of hepatitis C virus permissiveness in iteratively genetically humanized mice (on ALPHA-dri®)

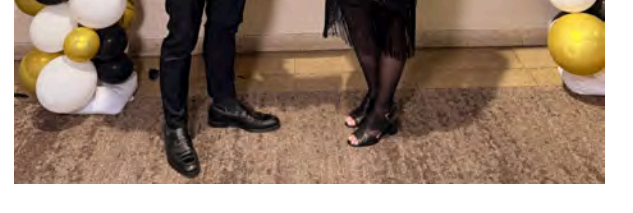
[read more](#)



Research Mice On ALPHA-dri®

UCSF researchers discover molecular timer that regulates pregnancy length

[read more](#)



First brain-wide map of decision-making charted in mice

[read more](#)

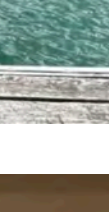
ALPHA-dri®

Advocating for research integrity & committed to transparency in material sourcing for biomedical research.

RESEARCH INTEGRITY
Data you trust because every variable including bedding is fully controlled

ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE
Animals experience less stress, fewer contaminants, and more stable living conditions

OPERATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY
Fewer changeouts, less waste, faster workflows, and consistent results across studies



Shepherd On The Road



Upcoming Events

July

AVMA Convention
Directors Bootcamp- Rutgers
NEBAALAS @ Night

August

OKAALAS Vendor Meeting
Mountain West Symposium

September

NCAB 2026 Seminar
CBAALAS Vendor Show
RTBAALAS Golf Tournament

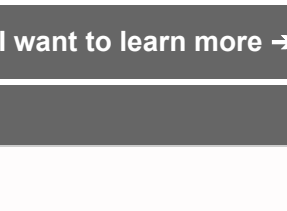
Industry Partners



NA3RsC

The National Association 3 R's Collaborative aims to improve animals lives, reduce their numbers while maintaining robust results, and replace them when scientifically appropriate...

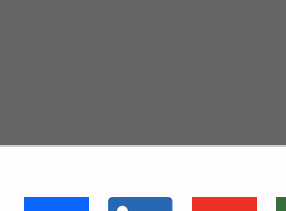
[Read more →](#)



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 in biomedical research...

[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](#)

(800) 382-5001 | www.ssheponline.com

Email Sent to: unsubscribe from all emails

© Shepherd | 2026
112 Tennessee Blvd. Watertown, TN 37184

