S6 Figure: Weaning strategy. The each pup from a litter is sexed, weighed and placed in a separate cage/container. After all animals from the litter are checked, it resulted in X number of separate cages/containers with males and Y number of separate cages/containers with females. If the number of males/females in a litter is 1, the animal is not weaned (female in Litter 1); if the number of males/females is 2 or 3, they are all weaned into same sex groups and taken to the housing room (Litter 2 and males in Litter 3); if the number of males/females is > 3, the three animals to be housed together are chosen using a random number generator (males in Litter 1 and females in Litter 3); unweaned pups (female in Litter 1), extra pups and dams were euthanized after the pups have been weaned.

**The weaning criteria to form groups of same-sex littermates:**

1. All litters with 3 or more males are used to wean 3 male littermates.
2. All litters with 3 or more females are used to wean 3 female littermates.
3. Additionally, any litters with 2 males or 2 females should also be weaned into same sex groups.

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