

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #603

RODENT QUARANTINE PROGRAM

1. PURPOSE

The intent of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the quarantine program for rodents coming from non-commercial or non-approved sources in order to prevent the introduction of rodent pathogens into established colonies.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Veterinarian, veterinary care staff, principal investigator (PI) and their research staff.

3. DEFINITION

Non-approved sources are all rodent suppliers other than Charles River Laboratories (excluding National Cancer Institute), Envigo, Taconic, and the production division of Jackson Labs.

4. PROCEDURES

- 4.1. The requested rodent strain must appear in the Facility Animal Care Committee approved Animal Use Protocol.
- 4.2. The PI requesting the animals must submit an Import Request form.
The sending institution provides the veterinarian (or designate) with the following information:
 - 4.3.1. A recent (<4 months) health report of the colony summarizing health monitoring results for the previous 18 months.
 - 4.3.2. A description of the husbandry practices
 - 4.3.3. A description of the health monitoring program
- ~~4.4~~ Veterinarian's (or designate's) responsibilities:
 - 4.4.1. Evaluate the information provided by the source institution.
 - ~~2.4.2~~ If necessary, consult with the PI to determine whether the mice will be received for quarantine.
 - ~~4.4.3~~ Notify the PI of the decision on quarantine housing for each import request.
 - 4.4.4. Notify the veterinary care staff of any special screening procedures for groups of animals, e.g., special instructions if mice are immunodeficient. health status of the sending facility and the housing conditions of the destination facility.
- 4.5. Quarantine access:
 - 4.5.1. Only essential personnel have access to quarantine, i.e., veterinarian, veterinary care staff, facility manager.
 - ~~4.5.2~~ If research personnel require access to the quarantine room, contact veterinary care staff.
 - 4.5.3. Do not transfer rodents out of quarantine before the end of the designated quarantine period unless the transfer was approved by a veterinarian or their designate.
- 4.6. Breeding Mice in Quarantine:
 - ~~4.6.1~~ Limited breeding during quarantine

4.7. Husbandry:

4.7.1. Operate quarantine facilities under Biocontainment Level 2, Bioexclusion Level 3 practices.

~~4.8.~~ Observation and Special Care:

4.8.1. Observe animals at least once daily.

~~4.8.2.~~ Report animals with clinical signs to the veterinary care staff.

4.8.3. If deaths occur, store the carcasses in the designated refrigerator and inform veterinary care staff.

For unexplained morbidity/mortality perform gross necropsy and collect tissues for histopathology of necessary.

4.9. Infectious Disease PCR Testing:

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