



Standard Operating Procedure Rodent Quarantine for Animals from Non-Approved Vendor Sources

1.0 Scope and Application

The rodent quarantine program is designed to prevent the introduction of rodent pathogens into established university colonies. The program isolates newly acquired rodents from non-approved vendor sources until their health status can be determined. This process is meant to maximize the probability that microorganisms of concern will be detected before the animals are introduced into established colonies.

2.0 Summary of Method

- The principal investigator must complete and submit a Non-Approved Vendor Source Rodent Request to LAR. The LAR Veterinary Technician will contact the institution or vendor of origin to request completion of the Rodent History Questionnaire and submission of health monitoring reports. After receipt and review of completed documents and recent health monitoring reports, a LAR veterinarian will make a decision regarding importation. If permission is granted, a LAR veterinarian will specify the duration and intensity of quarantine procedures.
- The LAR Assistant Director, in consultation with the LAR Director, will identify and designate a room/cubicle for quarantine of non-approved vendor source rodents. Inasmuch as possible, the designated area should be physically separated from other rodent housing areas. In all cases, the area must be separated from other rodent housing rooms by work and traffic flow patterns. The quarantine area's airflow must be maintained at a pressure negative to other cubicles, rooms, and common corridors.
- Rodents from non-approved vendor sources must only be received at Florida State University after verifying an approved FSU animal use protocol and securing import approval from a LAR veterinarian. All shipping containers containing non-approved vendor source rodents must be sprayed with an appropriate disinfectant (Clidox, MB-10, Accel) while on the loading dock and before being transferred to the quarantine area. After assessing the condition of the animals, the husbandry technician will notify the investigator and/or the investigator's staff of the animals' arrival.
- The minimum quarantine period for all non-approved vendor source rodents is three weeks.
- During the quarantine period, all rodents will be housed in static micro-isolator cages and provided care consistent with their needs. At the discretion of LAR veterinarians, quarantined rodents may be provided Mite-Arrest and/or fenbendazole medicated chow.

- A dedicated husbandry technician must be assigned to the quarantine suite, and daily animal care in this room must be performed as the final daily task. When servicing the room, the technician must wear all prescribed personal protective equipment. All cage and animal manipulations must be performed observing strict aseptic technique within a ventilated workstation. Gloves must be changed between shipments/groups of animals. The most recently acquired or the most highly suspect animals within the room must be serviced last. Weekend and holiday servicing must be performed as the final task of the day by the assigned technician. After entering the quarantine area, personnel are not permitted to enter any other animal housing area until the following day.
- Research personnel must not enter the quarantine area unless clearance has been obtained from a LAR veterinarian and escorted by LAR personnel. Additionally, no experimental manipulations or breeding can be initiated during the quarantine period unless exceptional circumstances apply, and prior approval has been granted by a LAR veterinarian.
- The LAR Veterinary Technician is responsible for maintaining a room log identifying the specific animal orders undergoing quarantine. The log must include information regarding anticipated quarantine release dates in order to allow investigators to plan research manipulations.
- The LAR Veterinary Technician or designee will collect voided fecal pellets and perform pelage swabs at the end of the specified quarantine period. Diagnostic samples will be submitted to a commercial laboratory for PCR analysis. Sample processing will add additional length to the minimum quarantine period, which is outside the control of LAR.
- After reviewing diagnostic reports, a LAR veterinarian will determine if animals can be released from quarantine. Written notification must be received from a LAR veterinarian before any animal(s) can be released.
- Upon successful completion of the quarantine period, the LAR Assistant Director will notify the investigator of the animal's permanent holding room assignment. Animals must be placed in covered caging while in transit to their holding room.

3.0 Definitions of Method

Unapproved vendors include any source other than Charles River, Jackson Labs, Envigo, NCI-Frederick, and Taconic.

Revision History

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