

RODENT QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

I. Purpose

To prevent the introduction of rodent pathogens into established rodent colonies.

II. Responsibility

- A. The veterinarians oversee all aspects of animal health, and are assisted by all LARAC staff.
- B. The Clinical Veterinarian and LARAC Veterinary Technician are responsible for carrying out quarantine procedures.
- C. The Team Leader is responsible for ensuring that all animal care staff are adequately trained and experienced in rodent quarantine procedures.

III. Definitions

- A. Quarantine: the separation of newly received animals from those already in the facility until the health and possibly the microbial status of the newly received animals have been determined. (Guide, p.58)
- B. Acclimation: the period of time required for physiologic, psychologic, and nutritional stabilization before animals may be used. (Guide, p.58)
- C. Approved commercial vendor: a preferred animal vendor due to consistently clean health surveillance reports from their inhouse animals, and from the consistently healthy animals provided to and used at Mississippi State University.

IV. Procedures

- A. Receipt of Animals from an Approved Commercial Vendor
 - 1. If animals are obtained from an approved commercial vendor, the standard acclimation period of 3 days will apply.
 - 2. Upon arrival, animals will be placed into standard rodent shoebox cages or microisolator cages.
 - 3. An anal tape impression smear will be obtained from rodents at random by the clinical lab animal veterinarian upon arrival and examined microscopically for endoparasites.
 - 4. After the 3-day period, the clinical lab animal veterinarian will visually examine the rodents and then if all animals appear healthy, submit an email to the investigator stating the animals are ready to leave quarantine. The veterinarian will also make a notation in the rodent quarantine log book that is kept in the LARAC office.
 - 5. A list of approved commercial vendors follows. This list of approved vendors may change as health status of the colony change.

- a. Charles River Laboratories
 - b. Harlan
 - c. Jackson Laboratories
 - d. Taconic
 - e. Sasco
 - f. National Cancer Institute
 - g. To be determined based upon analysis of new vendors' serologic and current and historic monitoring programs.
- B. Receipt of Animals from Non-Approved Vendors and from Private Sources
1. If animals are obtained from non-approved vendors such as other universities, research institutions, or biotechnology companies, a more stringent quarantine period of 6-8 weeks will apply.
 2. Upon arrival, animals will be housed in microisolator cages, if available, in a specified room.
 3. The clinical lab animal veterinarian will examine the shipment and perform random anal tape impressions for endoparasites.
 4. Two sentinel rodents will be placed with each shipment. After five weeks, a sentinel is removed and serology submitted to RADIL. A necropsy is also performed by MSU-CVM diagnostic services.
 5. Rodents will routinely be fed fenbendazole-medicated feed during the quarantine period.
 6. Ivermectin 1 ul/5 grams of body weight will be applied topically between the animals' scapulae on day 1 and day 10 of quarantine for treatment of ectoparasites. All treatments and examinations will be recorded in the rodent quarantine log book and also reported by email to the investigator.
 7. Access to quarantine rooms is limited to essential personnel. If an investigator wishes to enter a quarantined room, permission must be obtained by the attending veterinarian.
 8. Personal protective equipment: Disposable gown, gloves, and shoe covers should be worn upon entering a quarantined room. A mask and cap should be worn when performing tasks that require opening microisolators. All PPE should be disposed of in the proper container before leaving the room.
- C. Exceptions to this quarantine period can only be made by the attending veterinarian and through the appropriate amendment to the investigator's protocol.