

I. Introduction

There is an inherent risk of the introduction of bacteria, viruses and/or other pathogens when new animals are brought into animal colonies. This risk can be minimized by;

- Limiting direct colony access to animals from “approved commercial vendors” who satisfy established health related criteria.
- Screening animals (particularly rodents) from random sources for pathogens prior to introduction to colony animals.
- When appropriate, isolating new animals from colony animals in a vivarium designated quarantine area prior to colony introduction until it is determined that the animals are healthy.

II. Definitions

All terms used in this policy, but not otherwise defined, have the same meaning given to them in the AWA and PHS Policy.

III. Applicability

This policy applies to all individuals working with animals in teaching or research at TCU, and all other individuals subject to the TCU IACUC oversight.

IV. Policy Requirements

1. Approved commercial rodent (Mus and Rattus) vendors require no quarantine or testing. They are delivered directly into animal rooms:
 - a. Documentation of (minimum) quarterly testing and disease-free rodent status for production colonies for at least two prior years for the following organisms:
 - i. Mice: MHV, MVM (MMV), MPV (MPV1, MPV2, MPV3), MNV, THEV, EDIM, Sendai virus, Mycoplasma pulmonis, PVM, Reovirus 3, LCMV, Echromelia virus, MAD1, MAD2, Polyoma virus, Encephalitozoon cuniculi, CARB, Clostridium piliforme, Hantaan virus, K virus, MTV, and MCMV.
 - ii. Rats: RCV, RPV, RMV, KRV, H-1, RTV (Rat theilovirus), Sendai virus, PVM, Mycoplasma pulmonis, Reovirus 3, LCMV, CARB, Hantaan virus, Clostridium piliforme, MAD1, MAD2, IDIR, KRV, and Encephalitozoon cuniculi.

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- b. Be a commercial institution with the primary purpose of providing specific pathogen free rodents for research, and have an excellent record for customer service and communication.
2. **Rodent Quarantine:** Any rodent coming from a non-approved facility must undergo quarantine and testing prior to colony entry.
- a. Preliminary information is needed in order to facilitate communication between TCU veterinary staff, administration, and contact people at the institution sending the rodents. Prior to quarantine entry, the following information must be submitted to TCU Vivarium Staff for review by our attending veterinarian.
 - i. Health reports from the originating institution to include negative serology for (MHV, Sendai, PVM, M. pulmonis, GD-VII, Reo-3,MPV, EDIM, LCM, Ectromelia), as well as endo/ecto parasite screen within the last 18 months.
 - ii. Phone/FAX for veterinarian from the originating institution.
 - iii. Phone/FAX for the investigator from the originating institution.
 - b. Each of the quarantine rooms are operated on an “all-in-all-out” basis. There will be at least a one-week open “quarantine window” prior to the start of the quarantine period. Shipments of mice will be arranged to arrive during this time.
 - c. After a minimum three-week quarantine period an animal from the colony will be selected for testing. If the animal is tested negative then, a sentinel trial will begin and will continue for at least two weeks. Rodents will be released from quarantine as soon as negative serology and parasitology status is confirmed.
 - d. Access to animals during the quarantine period is limited to veterinary personnel, and breeding is not allowed. Exceptions to this policy must be arranged prior to animal arrival.
 - e. In case of a positive report during quarantine;
 - i. Results will be evaluated by veterinary staff and discussed with the investigator.
 - ii. Each individual cage (usually one animal per cage) from the suspect group will be bled and re-tested for the organism identified at the original screening. Animals from cages testing positive must be removed from quarantine and will not be allowed into the colony. Animals from cages testing negative must complete a second four-week quarantine period.
 - iii. Non-suspect shipments of rodents must stay in quarantine for a second four-week period, and retested before release.
3. **Non-mus/rattus purpose-bred laboratory animals** (e.g. voles, white footed mice, African clawed frogs, finches) may be brought directly into animal rooms without quarantine and testing, but may require some form of isolation upon arrival. The

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attending veterinarian must be consulted prior to purchase of these animals. The attending veterinarian will contact the vendor and discuss the health status of the animals but the decision remains at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.

4. **Isolation or quarantine of wild-trapped vertebrate animals may be required** prior to their introduction into existing animal colonies. The requirement for testing is at the discretion of the attending veterinarian. Vivarium staff must be consulted at least two weeks prior to the date of arrival to determine if isolation/quarantine is necessary and arrange for appropriate housing and SOPs.

V. Enforcement

Failure to comply with this Policy could result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

VI. Questions/Reports

If you have any questions about this Policy or would like to report a potential violation, please contact the RIO. Reports regarding violations of this Policy may be submitted anonymously by using the independent Ethics and Compliance Hotline at 1-877-888-0002.

VII. Policy Sponsor

Associate Provost for Research

VIII. Related Policies and Procedures

Code of Conduct
Research Misconduct Policy and Procedures
[include all other policy that are related to this policy]

IX. History

Effective Date: [April 30, 2020]
Last Revised Date: -