

QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

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Background

There is an inherent risk of the introduction of bacteria, viruses and/or other pathogens when new animals are brought into UC Berkeley 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, either in an OLAC designated quarantine area prior to colony introduction or at the housing room or cage level, until it is determined that the animals are healthy.

Rodent Vendor Criteria

Approved commercial rodent (*Mus* and *Rattus*) vendors require no quarantine or testing. They are purchased through OLAC and delivered directly into animal rooms. Criteria for approved vendors include:

- Documentation of quarterly testing at a minimum and disease free rodent status for production colonies for at least two prior years for the following organisms (MHV, Sendai, PVM, *M. pulmonis*, GD-VII, Reo-3, MPV, EDIM, LCM, Ectromelia).
- Must 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.

Please contact OLAC for a list of currently approved vendors.

Quarantine Procedures

A. *Mus/Rattus*

Any rodent coming from a non-approved facility must be housed in quarantine and tested prior to colony entry.

- a. Preliminary information is needed in order to facilitate communication between OLAC veterinary staff, OLAC administration, and contacts at the institution sending the rodents. Prior to quarantine entry, the following information must be submitted to OLAC:
 - i. A completed health survey from the originating institution.
 - ii. 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 24 months.
 - iii. Phone/FAX for veterinarian from the originating institution.
 - iv. Phone/FAX for the investigator from the originating institution
- b. Each of the 4 quarantine rooms is operated on an “all-in, all-out” basis (ie, all animals assigned to one room for quarantine will be transferred out of that room before it is used again). There will be at least a one-week period prior to the start of the quarantine period during which shipments of mice assigned to the same room will be arranged to arrive. The quarantine period will start upon arrival of the latest shipment.
- c. A bedding exposure sentinel trial will begin at the start of the quarantine period and continue for at least four weeks. Each shipment of rodents will be assigned at least two sentinel rodents. Sentinel animals will be tested four weeks after the beginning of the quarantine period. Mice will be released from quarantine as soon as negative serology and parasitology status is confirmed.
- d. As a preventive measure against pinworms and fur mites, all mice will be fed fenbendazole feed and exposed to acaricide for the entire quarantine period.
- e. Access to mice during the quarantine period is limited to OLAC personnel, and breeding is not allowed. Exceptions to this policy must be arranged prior to animal arrival.
- f. In case of a positive report during quarantine:
 - i. Results will be evaluated by OLAC veterinary staff and discussed with the investigator.
 - ii. Each individual cage (usually one animal per cage) from the suspect group will be 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 4-week period, and retested before release.

B. Non-*Mus/Rattus* Laboratory Animals

Non-*Mus/Rattus* purpose-bred laboratory animals (e.g., voles, white-footed mice, African clawed frogs, finches, guinea pigs) may be brought directly into animal rooms, but may require some form of isolation upon arrival. OLAC must be consulted prior to purchase of these animals. OLAC veterinarians will contact the vendor and discuss the health status of the animals in the breeding facility; the need for isolation, quarantine and/or treatment on arrival is at the discretion of OLAC veterinarians.

C. Wild-trapped Animals

Isolation or quarantine of wild-trapped vertebrate animals may be required prior to their introduction into existing animal colonies. The requirement for isolation/quarantine, length of time, location, and requirements for treatments and testing is at the discretion of OLAC veterinarians. OLAC 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 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).