



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Loyola University Chicago/Health Sciences Campus (LUC/HSC) Comparative Medicine Facility (CMF) Rodent Import Policy

Laboratory rodents are susceptible to infection by a wide variety of microbial agents. Infection by one or more agents can have devastating effects on research either by making animals sick or by inducing physiologic changes in the absence of overt illness. Thus, in order to best serve our researchers and to protect both the animals in our care and the validity of research outcomes, we strive to preserve SPF rodent colonies. We regularly evaluate our sentinel rubric and attempt to utilize the most comprehensive and current testing methods available to us while also working to maintain a cost-efficient and time-sensitive program. We must, therefore, implement a screening process for all animals coming from our fellow research institutions.

All rodent orders, including imports, strain generation, and rederivation projects, must begin with an animal order in the research portal. This allows tracking of the import, pre-project consultation, and a place on the import waiting list. Prior to approving import of animals from other research institutions we must first evaluate husbandry practices and the last twelve months of sentinel testing results from the room(s) where the animals are housed. In all of our mouse rooms we exclude for all endo- and ectoparasites, Ectromelia virus, Hantaan viruses, LDH (LDV), LCMV, MVM, Mouse adenoviruses, MCMV, MHV, Mouse parvoviruses, MTV (MTLV), TMEV (GDVII), MNV, Murine rotaviruses, PVM, Polyomaviruses, Reoviruses, and Sendai virus. In addition, we also exclude for the following bacteria, fungi, and protozoa, *Bordetella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., Cilia-associated respiratory bacillus, *Citrobacter rodentium*, *Clostridium* spp., *Corynebacterium* spp., *Mycoplasma pulmonis*, *Pasteurella pneumotropica*, *Salmonella* spp., *Streptococcus moniliformis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Helicobacter* spp., *Encephalitozoon cuniculi*, *Pneumocystis* spp., *Cryptosporidium* spp., *Entamoeba muris*, *Giardia* spp., *Spironucleus muris*, *Tritrichomonas muris* and *Klebsiella* spp. The Comparative Medicine Facility (CMF) Director, or designee, reserves the right to amend this list at any time due to shifts in research, room status, or industry standards. All results must be negative in rooms where the shipment animals are housed or in all facility rooms (if husbandry practices indicate possible inter-facility cross-contamination). If required tests have not been performed, CMF may ask for additional testing. If any results for organisms excluded at our facility return positive or if practices are deemed below LUC/HSC standards, we cannot approve import. There are, however, other options available. We have a collaborative relationship with a nearby institution which has a rodent pathogen-positive housing area. The animals would remain there for the duration of the study and would require anyone working there to have a without-compensation appointment. For more information on this option, please contact Rosemary Buesing at rbuesin@luc.edu. Another option is to have the animals rederived, creating SPF animals which can then be brought to LUC/HSC. Jackson Labs is one company which provides this service, <https://www.jax.org/jax-mice-and-services/breeding-and-rederivation-services/rederivation>. LUC/HSC can only accept rederivations and strain generations from approved, commercial vendors and select institutions. If a strain is generated or rederived at an unapproved institution, it must be rederived at an approved, commercial vendor before arriving at LUC/HSC. An animal order in the portal prevents these issues.

Approved shipments will be placed in CMF quarantine for a minimum of 45 days. PCR and/or serologic tests will be performed upon arrival and prior to release from quarantine. All results will be evaluated by the CMF colony health management team and treatment, if necessary and practical, will be discussed with the investigator. Animals which will be housed in rooms with immunocompromised subjects will be held in stricter scrutiny than in those in standard rooms and may require treatment for opportunistic bacteriologic agents prior to release from quarantine.

Our goal is to help research progress and for that we need to keep our colony safe and help you to get the animals you require. If you would like to speak with someone regarding our program, please contact Chrissie Joy Staunton, cstaunton1@luc.edu.