

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-5210**

Service: **Research**

Operating Section: **Clinical Medicine**

Unit: **CMF**

Title: **Quarantine, Conditioning, and Preventive Health Program for Rodents**

Purpose:

To outline the quarantine, conditioning and preventive health program for *Mus musculus* (mice), *Rattus sp.* (rats), *Meriones unguiculatus* (gerbils), *Mesocricetus auratus* (hamsters), and *Cavia porcellus* (Guinea pigs) or other rodent species.

Procedure:

- 1) Laboratory rodents purchased from approved vendors (see SOP "Approved Vendor Listing") will not be placed on quarantine status. A three (3) day acclimation period will be required prior to use on any but acute, non-survival surgical procedures. Colony health/sentinel testing records from the vendors will be reviewed for each shipment, including specific information of the animal's origin (building number, room number, etc.). A summary of any positive findings will be kept as a reference. Any rodent shipment with health/sentinel records containing positive findings for excluded agents will be quarantined and dealt with (SOP "Rodent Colony Health Records").
- 2) Animals from different vendors may be placed in the same room at the discretion of the Director, CMF, or designee.
- 3) All animals from non-commercial sources will have a clean health history (i.e. animals suspected of being positive for pathogens [adventitious, MNV viruses, Helicobacter, parasites, etc.] will not be accepted to the quarantine facility). However, all quarantine mice should be considered pathogen-suspect.
 - a) Rodents from non-commercial sources will undergo a minimum 45-day quarantine/conditioning period which will include the following:
 - i) Baseline PCR testing;
 - ii) Daily monitoring for evidence of infectious disease;
 - iii) End-of quarantine serology, parasitology, and PCR testing;
 - iii) Results reviewed by the Director, CMF, or designee, prior to release of the animals;
 - iv) The Principal Investigator involved in such a quarantine/conditioning period is held responsible for all costs involved.
 - b) Access to the quarantine areas is limited to CMF personnel only. Access for research staff may be granted by the Director, CMF, or designee on a case-by-case basis.
- 4) The preventive health program for rodents is composed of the following:
 - a) purchase of healthy animals (i.e. from an approved vendor list)
 - b) quarantine of animals from questionable sources
 - c) conditioning of animals
 - d) routine health monitoring of colony animals
 - e) diagnostic work-up of selected index cases
 - f) health monitoring of sentinel animals (see appropriate SOP)
 - g) periodic examination of health records

- h) periodic review of ACORPs, including revision of pain classification, if necessary
- 5) Guinea pigs will have quarterly physical exams and a complete physical exam annually (heart rate, respiratory rate, lung and heart auscultation, body weight, body temperature and general health assessment). Quarterly physical exams include:
 - a) Teeth examined and trimmed if needed
 - b) Ears examined and cleaned if needed
 - c) Nails trimmed if needed
 - d) Fur examined for external parasites
 - e) Review animal health status
 - f) Review of individual animal records
- 6) Unusual or unexpected illnesses or deaths that may affect the health of a given colony will be investigated at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.
- 7) Rooms holding all rodent colonies will be screened for endo- and ectoparasites at a minimum of twice a year.
- 8) Sentinel animals for rats, mice, hamsters and guinea pigs will undergo serological screening tests (see SOP, "Colony Health Management Sentinel Testing Program").
- 9) All findings will be included in the health records maintained for that colony.

APPROVALS

Responsible Official Signature	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Date	<i>08/25/2022</i>
QA Signature	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Date	<i>08/25/2022</i>
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