Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: 02-13-5210
Service: Research
Operating Section: Clinical Medicine
Unit: CMF
Title: Quarantine and Conditioning Procedures for Rodents

Purpose:
To describe the quarantine and conditioning procedures 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”.

3) Animals from different vendors may be placed in the same room at the discretion of the Director, CMF, or designee.

4) 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;
      iv) Results reviewed by the Director, CMF, or designee, prior to release of the animals;
   
   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.

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