



INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE
AND USE COMMITTEE

IACUC POLICY # 19

Policy for Importation of Rodents

Genetically manipulated animals provide a valuable research tool. Hundreds of different transgenic and gene knockout rodents are now available to investigators. However, most of these very specialized animals are available only from limited sources, usually other research institutions and universities. The procedures for housing and maintaining animals and monitoring their health status vary widely from institution to institution. The risks of importing infectious disease agents and internal and external parasites are increased, placing our established non-infected colonies at great risk.

To reduce the opportunities for introducing potentially devastating agents into U.S.C. animal facilities, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has established the following policy for importation of rodents from other institutions.

1. Investigators requesting to introduce animals must have an Animal Use Proposal approved by the IACUC prior to making the request for animals.
2. No animals will be allowed into the U.S.C. facilities until the health status of the origin colony has been reviewed by the Attending Veterinarian. The review may include submission of whole animals and/or specimens to a reference diagnostic laboratory. All incoming shipments of animals will be free from adventitious viruses and parasites. Diagnostic charges incurred will be charged to the investigator's account.
3. All shipments of animals to U.S.C. will be coordinated through Animal Resource Facilities (ARF).
4. Imported animals will be placed in quarantine in an ARF approved facility until such time as they are deemed acceptable for introduction into the general animal housing area.
5. Quarantined animals may be removed for euthanasia and harvest of tissues. No animal removed from the quarantine facility will be allowed back into any animal holding area. Quarantined animals may not be housed in investigators' laboratories.

Procedures for importing animals

1. The receiving (U.S.C.) investigator must notify ARF prior to any arrangements for shipping. Submit a completed animal order form with the following additional information:

Source of the animals;

Nomenclature of the animals;

Contact person (name, address, telephone number, fax number) of the supplier;

Desired date for arrival.

2. The U.S.C. investigator should arrange with the shipper to provide at least 2 extra animals from the same colony/room to be used for diagnostic testing. These animals may be animals that are excess, e.g., animals that were not positive for the transgene, but from the same room or holding cage as the desired animals. If extra animals cannot be obtained, the animals will be held in quarantine and sampled by ARF personnel. Diagnostic charges incurred will be charged to the investigator's account.

3. ARF will contact the provider to request health surveillance information and the latest surveillance results for review by the ARF veterinarian. The ARF veterinarian may contact the institution's veterinarian for information regarding the colony status.

4. Once the health status has been reviewed, ARF will coordinate shipment with the U.S.C. investigator and the provider. Normally, animals are shipped on Monday or Tuesday to prevent the possibility of animals being left with a shipper over a weekend.

5. Upon arrival ARF personnel will house the animals in a suitable quarantine facility and notify the investigator that the animals have arrived and their condition.

6. Animals will remain in quarantine until all diagnostic testing has been completed.

7. If quarantined animals are to be euthanized, the investigator may notify the ARF Supervisor (Peg Rentz 777-8106) to arrange for ARF delivery of the animals to the investigator's laboratory. Animals may not be returned to any animal facility.