

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Incoming Animals/Quarantine		
Document #: 025	Version #: 04	
Approved by IACUC Date: October 26, 2021		

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. There is an inherent risk of the introduction of bacteria, viruses and/or other pathogens when animals are brought into DLAM (Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine) colonies. This risk can be minimized by following the procedures outlined in this document.
- b. Investigators must have an approved protocol to order animals. The species and strain(s) must be approved for use in the approved application. The only exception to this is if an investigator is in transition from another institution and the other institution insists that the animals be relocated immediately. In this case, the DLAM Holding Protocol will be used.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to contact the DLAM Animal Health Technician regarding bringing animals to UNTHSC from a non-approved vendor.
- b. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to order animals only on approved protocols. If a protocol is not approved and the animals must be moved from another institution, the PI must coordinate with DLAM to place the animals on the Holding Protocol.
- c. It is the responsibility of the DLAM Animal Health Technician to coordinate with the PI and the shipping institution for receiving animals.

C. PROCEDURES

- a. DLAM permits direct colony access to animals from approved commercial vendors who satisfy established health related criteria.
- b. **Approved commercial rodent (Mus and Rattus) vendors:** require no quarantine or testing. They are approved through DLAM and delivered directly into animal rooms: Criteria for approved vendors;
 - i. Documentation of quarterly testing and disease-free rodent status for production colonies for at least two prior years.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. For a complete approved vendor list, contact the DLAM office.
- c. **Non-approved institutions:** Any rodent coming from a non-approved facility must undergo quarantine and testing prior to colony entry.

- i. PI's must complete the Animal Shipping Record, found on the DLAM website (see attachment 1), and submit it to the Animal Health Technician in room RES-128 or via email. This form must be filled out at least 3 weeks prior to the shipping date.
 - ii. Preliminary information is needed in order to facilitate communication between DLAM veterinary staff, administration, and contact people at the institution sending the rodents. Prior to quarantine entry, the following information must be submitted to DLAM.
 1. Health reports from the originating institution to include negative serology as well as a negative endo/ecto parasite screen within the last 18 months.
 2. Phone/FAX for veterinarian from the originating institution.
 3. Phone/FAX for the investigator from the originating institution.
 - iii. Each of the quarantine rooms are operated on an "all-in-all-out" basis.
 - iv. Animals that have negative serological reports (including but not limited to internal and external parasites and specific pathogens) will be approved for shipment to UNTHSC. See section d. below for animals that have positive serological reports from the shipping institution.
 - v. There are two methods of testing quarantine animals:
 1. Sentinel Trial: A bedding exposure sentinel trial will begin at the start of the quarantine period and continue for at least four weeks (time range is 30 – 45 days). Sentinel animals will be bled and tested 30 – 45 days after the beginning of the quarantine period. Mice will be released from quarantine as soon as negative serology and parasitological status is confirmed.
 2. PCR Testing: A PCR testing of individual animals can also be provided. Testing and quarantine stays will be discussed between Veterinarian, PI and Animal Health Technician on an as needed basis.
 - vi. Access to mice during the quarantine period is limited to DLAM personnel, and breeding is not allowed. Exceptions to this policy must be arranged prior to animal arrival.
 - vii. In case of a positive report during quarantine:
 1. Results will be evaluated by DLAM veterinary staff and discussed with the PI.
 2. Each individual cage (usually one animal per cage) from the suspect group will be bled and re-tested for the organism identified at the original screening.
- d. **Positive serological results from shipping facility:** Animals originating from such facilities may be received only after they have been re-derived, off-site, at a Veterinarian-approved facility. Any exception to this must be discussed with the Veterinarian.

- e. **Non-mus/rattus purpose-bred laboratory animals:** (e.g voles, white footed mice, African clawed frogs, finches) may be brought directly into animal rooms without quarantine and testing, but may require some form of isolation upon arrival. DLAM must be consulted prior to purchase of these animals. The DLAM veterinarian will contact the vendor and discuss the health status of the animals.
- f. **Isolation or quarantine of wild-trapped vertebrate animals:** is required prior to their introduction into existing animal colonies. The length of time, location, and requirements for treatments and testing is at the discretion of DLAM veterinarian. Full exam and serology must be performed. DLAM 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 SOPs.

D. ATTACHMENT

- a. [Animal Shipping Record](#)