


Laboratory Animal Resources Center Research, Surgical & Training Programs		
Title: Rodent Quarantine Policy		
Policy #: 001	Date in Effect: 6/9/08	
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In Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescinded <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Rescinded:	
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A) PURPOSE

To describe LARC procedures for quarantine of rodents at UTSA.

B) SCOPE

This policy applies to rodents shipped from non-approved facilities, those suspected or confirmed positive for excluded pathogens and rodents needing to be quarantined for other reasons as deemed necessary by the Director or Assistant Director.

C) RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) All investigators and LARC-RST personnel working with animals held in quarantine facilities are responsible to abide by this policy.
- 2) LARC supervisory personnel ensure compliance with this SOP and to train employees responsible for abiding by this policy.

D) REFERENCES

- 1) [List of approved vendors](#) are listed in the LARC website.

E) DEFINITIONS

- 1) [Non-approved sources](#) are explained in the LARC website.
- 2) Examples of non-approved sources are (but not limited to) mice and rats originating from non-approved vendors such as those shipped to UTSA from other universities and other research institutes.
- 3) Adventitious agents: Infectious and pathogenic agents (e.g. viruses, bacteria, fungi) that can accidentally contaminate the animal colony.

F) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1) This policy aims to protect the UTSA colony from introduction of adventitious agents into the animal facility. Introducing such agents has the potential of affecting the health of animals and in some cases, even if the health of animals is not affected, research data may be compromised. In general, animals from approved vendors are considered free of all pathogens. Most pathogens now found in animal facilities originate from non-approved sources such as other educational institutions. Even animals kept under tight pathogen controls in these institutions are more likely to be infected with undesirable agents and the period during animal transit or shipment are periods when animals are particularly most vulnerable to becoming infected.

- 2) Quarantined animals must be covered under an IACUC approved protocol.
- 3) This policy may be changed from time to time at the discretion of the LARC Director based on current trends in the field of Laboratory Animal Medicine, as new data regarding adventitious agents are published and as new pathogens or pathogen strains are discovered.
- 4) Deviations from this policy must be approved by the LARC Director.

G) PROCEDURES

- 1) Procedures prior to shipment of rodents from non-approved sources.
 - a) In general the last 2 health monitoring reports from the originating institute must be sent (preferably via e-mail) to the LARC Director or designee.
 - b) The most recent report must be within 3 months of arrival of animals at UTSA. Shorter intervals are preferred.
 - c) If reports indicate negative results according to LARC pathogen exclusion list, the Director may authorize shipment of animals in writing.
 - d) Positive results of pathogens in the exclusion list will be rejected for shipment to UTSA.
- 2) Procedure and time of quarantine and testing
 - a) Personnel allowed in quarantine room: Only LARC personnel are allowed access to the quarantine room.
 - b) Upon arrival, mice or rats from non-approved sources are housed in the quarantine room
 - c) Quarantine time: Generally 6 weeks and may be longer depending on any clinical signs, origin of animals, etc.
 - d) Sentinel testing: Sentinels assigned to quarantined animals are tested at approximately 4-5 weeks after arrival. Testing time may also vary as above and based on time of year, holidays, etc.
 - e) Duration of quarantine prior to testing may be shorten if cage mates to the animals are provided, however, quarantine will be no less than 3 weeks. This allows appropriate antibody response to develop for most pathogens.
 - f) Testing and prophylactic treatment of fur mites.
 - (1) Due to the high prevalence of this pathogen, in particular in institutions of higher education (more than 33% of research institutions were reported to have had fur mites in at least 1 of their colonies), the following testing and prophylactic treatment will be followed:
 - (a) Testing: Upon arrival and just prior to release from quarantine, a tape test is performed on all animals coming from non-approved sources.
 - (b) Prophylactic treatment: Upon arrival, all animals coming from non-approved sources receive a topical application of moxidectin. Investigators who have an issue

with the use of moxidectin should contact the LARC, otherwise treatment will be performed as a default. Please refer to the [Bayer](#) website for more information on moxidectin.

- 3) Release from quarantine
 - a) Release from quarantine to the animal holding room will be granted by the Director or designee after receipt of quarantine testing results. Positive results may be retested.
 - b) Continuation of positive results may result in euthanasia of animals to protect the rest of the animal colony.
 - c) Negative animals are delivered to the animal holding rooms by LARC personnel only.
- 4) Special requests during the quarantine period.
 - a) It is advisable not to perform any procedures in animals during the quarantine period.
 - b) If special procedures are absolutely necessary, they must be justified and a [FMLARC008 - Special Services Request](#) form must be submitted to the LARC via e-mail (larc@utsa.edu) or in person to the LARC office.
 - c) Special Services Request may be approved or denied. Denial will be based on LARC's ability to perform the requested services.
- 5) Investigator is responsible for the following charges during the quarantine period.
 - a) Per diem costs of quarantined animals incurred. Per diems cover the following services:
 - (1) Housing of quarantined animals and sentinels.
 - (2) Purchase of sentinels.
 - (3) One time standard testing prior to release from quarantine
 - b) Other expenditures not covered by quarantine per diems. Examples are:
 - (1) LARC personnel time and supplies beyond those covered by regular quarantine per diems, if special procedures are requested and justified through submission of [FMLARC008 - Special Services Request](#) form.
 - (2) Additional testing beyond standard sentinel testing.