

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Animal Care Centre
6199 South Campus Road
Vancouver, B. C. V6T 1W5
Tel: (604) 822-6283
Fax: (604) 822-3505

Dear University of British Columbia Researcher,

The following pages detail the specifics necessary to import rodents from another institution to UBC. Increasing exchanges of rodents and rodent products among laboratories throughout the world has increased the risk for introducing unwanted organisms, especially among colonies that are not well protected by stringent preventive measures. As well, the risk of infection has increased due to the number of available genetically engineered rodents, whose responses to disease are less predictable.

The responsibility of maintaining specific pathogen free rodent colonies at UBC, rests in the hands of our researchers, as well as our technical and veterinary staff. Specific Pathogen Free or SPF, refers to a colony of rodents with a defined microflora and excludes those bacterial, viral, and parasitic diseases known to cause clinical or non-clinical disease in the rodent of interest. It is important to realize that SPF is not a standardized definition and those rodents from different universities and institutions may have different pathogens. Laboratory rodents are susceptible to more than 50 viral, bacterial, parasitic and fungal agents. Although the majority of these agents will not cause overt, clinical disease, they are likely to alter the experimental suitability of an animal.

Our goals for animal related research at UBC are to have our researchers produce the best possible data they can and to not compromise the welfare of our research animals with an extra burden of disease. Because researchers share many of our animal units, we must maintain a standard that suits everyone. As well, not maintaining an SPF colony may affect another institutions decision to import our animals. In consideration of these issues, the veterinary staff has developed the following recommendations on importation.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Harvey-Clark, Director
Dr. Jim Love, Senior Veterinarian
Dr. Tamara Godbey, Clinical Veterinarian

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Instructions to UBC Investigators

wishing to

Import Rodents from other Universities, Hospitals, Institutes, etc.

This policy covers all rodents not being purchased from an accredited supplier e.g. Jackson Laboratory, Charles River, etc.

1. Please send the attached letter Health Requirements for Incoming Rodents to the sending institution. This letter will allow them to gather the information required by the UBC Veterinarian.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR INCOMING RODENTS

Dear _____:

Our university requires a health report for all incoming rodents, and the requirements are as follows:

1. The testing is generated from sentinel rodents or experimental rodents housed in the same room as the rodents to be shipped; **and**
2. The health report is current, i.e., **within 120 days** of the time of shipment and is historical, i.e., shows all the tests that have been performed in the last year; **and**
3. The health report **includes** the status of the following:

For all Rodents:

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Endoparasites | Ectoparasites | Helicobacter spp. |
| Bacteriology culture of the lower respiratory tract and colonic content | | |

For Mice (Serology by ELISA):

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Cilia-Associated Respiratory Bacillus | Ectromelia virus | Encephalitozoon cuniculi |
| Epizootic Diarrhea of Infant Mice Virus | Hantaan virus | K virus |
| Lymphocytic choriomeningitis Virus | Minute Virus of Mice | Mouse Adenovirus |
| Mouse Cytomegalovirus | Mouse Hepatitis Virus | Mouse Parvovirus |
| Murine Encephalomyelitis Virus | Mycoplasma pulmonis | Pneumonia Virus of Mice |
| Polyoma Virus | Reo-3 Virus | Sendai Virus |

For Rats (Serology by ELISA):

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cilia-Associated Respiratory Bacillus | Encephalitozoon cuniculi | Hantaan virus |
| Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus | Kilham Rat Virus | Mouse Adenovirus |
| Murine Encephalomyelitis Virus | Mycoplasma pulmonis | Pneumonia Virus of Mice |
| Sialodacryoadenitis (Rat Corona Virus) | Reo-3 Virus | Sendai Virus |
| Toolan's H-1 virus | Rat Parvovirus | |

If you need more information, please contact me at Ph. (604) 822-6696, FAX (604) 822-3505 or by email: tgodbey@interchange.ubc.ca. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Tamara Godbey
Clinical Veterinarian