



Policy on Import of Rodents into UIUC Animal Facilities

Background: Laboratory rodents, particularly mice and rats, are susceptible to infection by a wide variety of microbial agents. Infection by one or more agents can have devastating effects on the research by rendering animal subjects worthless, either by making them sick or by inducing physiologic changes in the absence of overt illness. As such, control measures that minimize the risk of opportunistic infections of the rodent colonies is critical to both the research and veterinary care programs. The most important management practice relative to this goal is the exclusion from the facilities of animals of an undesirable microbial status.

Policy:

1. Only animals originating from [an approved commercial vendor or other approved source](#) may be received into the UIUC animal facilities without undergoing additional screening, quarantine, rederivation, or other suitable monitoring or decontamination procedures. Approved vendor/source status is conferred by the DAR veterinary staff to institutions that provide suitable documentation of an acceptable disease control and surveillance program and that the source colony is free from all microbial agents of concern.
2. Importation of rodents originating from non-approved sources will be considered if suitable documentation regarding health status is provided by the source institution. Import request forms and guidelines for submission can be found on the DAR [website](#). Once health status is reviewed and the request approved by the DAR veterinary staff, the animals will be received only into the DAR Rodent Quarantine Facility (RQF). Animals received into this facility will be subject to the operating procedures and policies of the RQF and services provided will be at the expense of the investigator. Access to the RQF and breeding of quarantined animals is prohibited unless authorized by the DAR veterinarian.

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