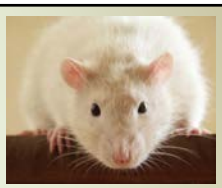
How to Procure Rodents from a Non-Commercial Vendor or to Relocate a Rodent Colony

The Division of Animal Care (DAC) is looking forward to assisting you and your lab staff as you pursue your research here at Vanderbilt University (VU).

Steps:

Principal Investigator	1. PI submits an Animal Use Protocol to the VU IACUC for approval [iacuc.submissions@vanderbilt.edu]. *NOTE: Animals must be assigned to an active IACUC-approved protocol before procurement and/or transfer process can begin.* 2. PI completes a "Request to Procure Animals from Non-Commercial Sources" through the Research Animal Transfer System (RATS). Information is available on the Animal Procurement page on the DAC website : https://www4.vanderbilt.edu/acup/dac/animal-procurement.php page on the DAC website. PI can continue to track the progress of their shipment through RATS. 3. PI contacts Office of Technology Transfer (343-2430, otted@vanderbilt.edu) to determine if Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) is required.
Division of Animal Care	4. DAC Shipping Coordinator requests necessary health reports – one year of health history with the newest report being no older than four months – from Non-Commercial Vendor or PI's previous institution. *NOTE: It can take several weeks to gather all the required documents.* 5. DAC Veterinarian approves health history. 6. DAC coordinates shipment into Quarantine Facility. PIs can log into RATS to track the progress of the shipment.



What you need to know about Procuring Animals from Non-Commercial Sources

PI Expenses:
Prices for colony relocation vary and will include shipping fees, health assessment costs, processing fees, and per diems during quarantine period.

Health Assessment:
There are serology and parasitology requirements for quarantine admittance. Animals must be negative for all VU excluded pathogens for consideration for shipment/relocation.

The list of Excluded Pathogens is available on the DAC website on the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page: https://www4.vanderbilt.edu/acup/dac/faq.php.

Quarantine Period: average 7-8 weeks

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Indicate on the transfer paperwork if you have specific health needs for your animals (e.g. Helicobacter negative, MNV negative) or if your animals require special care (e.g. special food or water, immunocompromised care).
2. For colony relocations, divide the transfer into two shipments to ensure the safety of your colony in the unlikely event that something should happen to one shipment.
3. For colony relocations, keep “back-up” animals at the institution of origin until you can ascertain that you have all the appropriate strains breeding at Vanderbilt.

See other side for Quarantine Procedures, Rederivation, and Contact Information for the DAC.

Updated 01/31/2014

QUARANTINE: ***The Division of Animal Care (DAC) receives more than 120 incoming shipments of mice from non-approved or non-commercial vendor sources each year. In conjunction with the Small Animal Advisory Committee, the DAC has adopted the following quarantine plan:***

1. Access to Quarantine facility is restricted to DAC Quarantine personnel.
2. Biocontainment caging systems and specific operation techniques are employed to accommodate weekly shipments.
3. All animals entering the quarantine facility are immediately tested for MHV and then retested prior to release.
4. Sentinel animals are exposed to soiled bedding.
5. All animals are placed on Ivermectin food for endo- and ecto-parasites. PIs with strains on special diets or those known to have problems with Ivermectin should consult with Dr. Patty Chen regarding alternatives.
6. Animals remain in quarantine for 7-8 weeks. Breeding and/or experimental manipulations are not allowed during this time.
7. Prior to release, a sample of the quarantine mice are directly tested for MHV, and internal and external parasites. Serology, parasite testing, and a necropsy are performed on sentinel animals. Test results must be negative for all excluded pathogens before animals are released from quarantine.
8. All soiled cages, bedding and materials are autoclaved out of the quarantine to prevent cross-contamination to other facilities.

REDERIVATION: ***In some cases, it may be recommended or required that mouse strains be rederived due to the health history at the Non-Commercial Vendor.***

Strains of mice can be brought in directly to animal facility or into Quarantine as:

- Live mice, which have been rederived at commercial vendors such as Charles River Laboratories or Jackson Laboratory. *Note: "Rapid Rederivation" may require additional Quarantine.*
- Cryopreserved embryos or cryopreserved sperm, which will be rederived at the VU Transgenic Mouse Embryonic Stem Cell Core and can be released to enter any VU facility. Contact the Transgenic Mouse ESC Shared Resource for more information (http://labnodes.vanderbilt.edu/tmescsr).

VUMC Specific Pathogen Free Rodent Barrier Facility

- If you would like to house your animals in the VUMC Rodent Barrier, the animals must be rederived using one of the methods above.

CONTACT US

Incoming Shipments
Dr. Patty Chen, Veterinarian
patty.chen@vanderbilt.edu
615-875-3052

Tressa Flores, Shipping Coordinator
DAC.shipments@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7237

DAC Business Office
615-322-2231 (phone)
615-343-7682 (fax)

To be able to meet your animal housing and veterinary needs for colony relocations, we request an initial one-on-one conversation between the Researcher, the Assistant Director of Clinical Medicine Dr. Erin Yu, and the Associate Director of Business Administration and Operations, Ms. Karen Jackson. Please call the business office to schedule a meeting.