The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

POLICY STATEMENT

Quarantine Procedures for Rodents from Non-Commercial Sources

Rodents are routinely received from colleagues at collaborative institutions. It is known that veterinary care programs related to rodent health surveillance are varied. Differing methods are used throughout the world to evaluate the health status of rodent colonies. Given this variability, coupled with expanding rodent populations at UMMC, a rodent quarantine program is needed to verify the health status of non-commercial sourced rodents.

1. Prior to shipment, the health status of the animal colony will be evaluated by the LAF veterinary staff. Methods are currently in place for the consignor to send this information to the LAF. Only approved health information will be cleared for shipment.

2. Upon receipt at UMMC, the animals will be maintained in a cubicle environment (either G-006, G-008, or R-808). Each cubicle environment is negatively pressurized (relative to others), thus airflow remains within the cubicle.

3. Viral-antibody free sentinel animals will be placed in the same location (cart, rack). Sentinel cages will be exposed for 4 weeks to the “dirty” bedding of the newly received, quarantine rodents.

4. During the quarantine period, rodents may begin breeding in an effort to expand the colony. No other experimental manipulations may be conducted.

5. At 4 weeks, sentinel mice will be bled for serum collection and tested. Negative results must be obtained prior to introduction of the research animals into the general colony.

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