

**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 an appropriate isolated environment. Each environment is negatively pressurized (relative to others), thus airflow remains within the cubicle.
3. During the quarantine period, rodents may begin breeding in an effort to expand the colony. **No other experimental manipulations may be conducted.**
4. At 4 weeks, selected quarantine animals will be bled for serum collection and other samples as specified by the veterinarian and tested. Negative results must be obtained prior to introduction of the research animals into the general colony.

IACUC Approved 12/17/09

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