



## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Office of Research Compliance (ORC)

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### Rodent Quarantine

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#### ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Web Address

**Effective:** 11/28/2012  
**Last Updated:** --

**Responsible University Officer:**  
Fred H. Cate  
*Vice President for Research*

**Policy Owner:**  
*Bloomington Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee*

**Policy Contact:**  
*IACUC Administrator*

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### Policy Statement

All mouse and rats obtained from non-approved vendors or transferred from other research institutions shall be quarantined and tested prior to entering the IUB core animal facilities.

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### Reason for Policy

Per the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Guide*, p. 111:

*Quarantine is the separation of newly received animals from those already in the facility, in a way that prevents potential spread of contaminants, until the health and possibly the microbial status of the newly received animals have been determined.*

*Transportation can be stressful and may induce recrudescence of subclinical infections harbored by an animal.*

*An effective quarantine program minimizes the risk of introduction of pathogens into an established colony. The veterinary medical staff should implement procedures for evaluating the health and, if appropriate, the pathogen status of newly received animals, and the procedures should reflect acceptable veterinary medical practice and federal and state regulations applicable to zoonoses (Butler et al. 1995).*

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## Procedures

### Quarantine Options:

- 1. In-House:** LAR maintains a restricted access quarantine room in the Research Service Building (RSB) animal facility to house incoming mice and/or rats. Per diem and pathogen screening (PCR and serology) costs are the responsibility of the researcher.
  - This option is the least costly of the three options. The duration of quarantine and the methods of testing are determined by the veterinary staff based upon the documented health history of the colony of origin. (For example, a group of four mice incurs an approximated cost of \$120 - \$240; time in quarantine is 3 to 6 weeks.)
  - Details of the LAR quarantine operation can be found in the LAR Rodent Quarantine SOP at:  
[https://lar.indiana.edu/doc/SOP\\_403\\_Rodent\\_Quarantine\\_SOP\\_7\\_2\\_15.pdf](https://lar.indiana.edu/doc/SOP_403_Rodent_Quarantine_SOP_7_2_15.pdf)
- 2. Off-Site Quarantine:** Commercial rodent vendors (e.g., Taconic, Jackson Labs, Charles Rivers) will quarantine and test rodents as a commercial service. Once rodents have completed the quarantine period and are shown to be pathogen-free, they can be shipped directly to the campus core animal facilities. (The approximate cost is \$2200 - \$4000, depending on vendor and number of animals.)
- 3. Rederivation via Embryo Transfer:** Rederivation is an effective means to ensure specific pathogen-free status of genetically modified mouse strains. Commercial vendors can perform this procedure as a commercial service. Rederived mice can be shipped directly to the campus core animal facilities. (The approximate cost is \$2800.)

### Exceptions:

Under certain circumstances, the IACUC may approve an exception to the quarantine policy and allow animals with indeterminable health status to be received directly into a researcher's dedicated laboratory space, usually for immediate euthanasia and subsequent tissue harvest. The following conditions must apply:

- The request for an exception must be part of an IACUC approved animal use protocol and must be scientifically justified.
- Adequate animal health information from the vendor or originating institution must be reviewed and approved by LAR veterinary staff.
- The submission of a Standard Operating Procedure for ensuring that laboratory animal staff will not inadvertently contaminate animals housed in campus animal facilities is required.

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## Sanctions

Failure to comply with IACUC policies may result in non-compliance reports to the Institutional Official, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and/or a suspension of animal use privileges. In addition, the availability of sponsored research funds may be affected when an investigator is found to be in violation of these policies.

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## Forms

Approved Animal Vendor List:

[https://lar.indiana.edu/doc/LAR-approved%20Vendors\\_5\\_2017.pdf](https://lar.indiana.edu/doc/LAR-approved%20Vendors_5_2017.pdf)

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## Contacts

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
Availability of animal holding areas; costs associated with quarantine	Lab Animal Resources	855-2356	<a href="mailto:lar@indiana.edu">lar@indiana.edu</a>
Policy	IACUC Administrator	855-5138	<a href="mailto:biacuc@indiana.edu">biacuc@indiana.edu</a>

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## Web Address for this Policy

<https://research.iu.edu/policies/bloomington-animal-care-and-use.html>