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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Animal Care Services
Centre for Comparative Medicine
4145 Wesbrook Mall
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University of British Columbia Health Requirements for Incoming Rodents

The University of British Columbia (UBC) requires animal health information for all incoming rodents. This health information must include ALL of the following:

1. The testing is generated from sentinel rodents or experimental rodents housed in the same room as the rodents to be shipped;
2. The health report is current, i.e., **within 120 days** of the time of shipment, and the samples pertaining to the same room(s) housing the rodents to be shipped is clearly indicated;
3. Historical data is provided – either a copy or summary of all the tests that have been performed in the last year, or a letter/email from the exporting institution's veterinarian summarizing what, if anything, the facility has tested positive for in the last year and what measures were taken, if any;
4. A summary of the type of facility (conventional, barrier, etc.) and details re: caging type, whether cages are autoclaved or changed in a hood, sentinel program, etc.
5. For imports to CMMT, CFRI, St. Paul's and MBF, the UBC researcher should fill out section 1 of the import questionnaire and send it to the exporting institution to complete. Once complete, forward the questionnaire to anca.orders@ubc.ca along with all of the necessary documents.
6. The health report includes the status of the following:

For all Rodents:
Endoparasites Ectoparasites Helicobacter spp.
Bacteriology culture of the lower respiratory tract and colonic content

For Mice (Serology by ELISA):
Cilia-Associated Respiratory Bacillus Ectromelia virus Encephalitozoon cuniculi
Epizootic Diarrhea of Infant Mice Virus Hantaan virus Sendai Virus
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis Virus Minute Virus of Mice Mouse Adenovirus
Mouse Cytomegalovirus Mouse HepatitisVirus Mouse Parvovirus
Murine Encephalomyelitis Virus Mycoplasma pulmonis Pneumonia Virus of Mice
PolyomaVirus Reo-3 Virus

For Rats (Serology by ELISA):
Cilia-Associated Respiratory Bacillus Encephalitozoon cuniculi Hantaan virus
Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus Kilham Rat Virus Mouse Adenovirus
Murine Encephalomyelitis Virus Mycoplasma pulmonis Pneumonia Virus of Mice Sialodacryoadenitis (Rat Corona Virus) Reo-3 Virus Sendai Virus
Toolan's H-1 virus Rat Parvovirus

If you need more information, please contact a UBC Clinical Veterinarian at 604-822-6283. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Note to UBC Researchers:

The attached letter details the specifics necessary to import rodents from another institution to UBC. Increasing exchanges of rodents and rodent products among laboratories throughout the world has increased the risk for introducing unwanted organisms, especially among colonies that are not well protected by stringent preventive measures. As well, the risk of infection has increased due to the number of available genetically engineered rodents, whose responses to disease are less predictable.

The responsibility of maintaining specific pathogen free rodent colonies at UBC, rests in the hands of our researchers, as well as our technical and veterinary staff. Specific Pathogen Free or SPF, refers to a colony of rodents with a defined microflora and excludes those bacterial, viral, and parasitic diseases known to cause clinical or non-clinical disease in the rodent of interest. It is important to realize that SPF is not a standardized definition and those rodents from different universities and institutions may have different pathogens. Laboratory rodents are susceptible to more than 50 viral, bacterial, parasitic and fungal agents. Although the majority of these agents will not cause overt, clinical disease, they are likely to alter the experimental suitability of an animal.

Our goals for animal related research at UBC are to have our researchers produce the best possible data they can and to not compromise the welfare of our research animals with an extra burden of disease. Because researchers share many of our animal units, we must maintain a standard that suits everyone. As well, not maintaining an SPF colony may affect another institution's decision to import our animals. In consideration of these issues, the veterinary staff has developed the following recommendations on importation.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration.

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