

IACUC Policy for Importation of Rodents

Background:

Genetically manipulated animals provide a valuable research tool. Thousands of different genetically modified rodents are now available to investigators. However, most of these very specialized animals are available only from limited sources, usually other research institutions and universities. The procedures for housing and maintaining animals and monitoring their health status vary widely from institution to institution. The risks of importing infectious disease agents and internal and external parasites are increased, placing our colonies at great risk.

Policy:

To reduce the opportunities for introducing potentially devastating agents into USC animal facilities, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has established the following policy for importation of rodents from other institutions.

1. Investigators requesting to introduce animals must have an Animal Use Proposal approved by the IACUC prior to making the request for animals.
2. No animals will be allowed into USC facilities until the health status of the origin colony has been reviewed by the Attending Veterinarian. The review may include submission of whole animals and/or specimens to a reference diagnostic laboratory. All incoming shipments of animals will be free from adventitious viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Diagnostic charges incurred will be charged to the investigator's account.
3. All shipments of animals will be coordinated through Department of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR). Shipments not coordinated through DLAR will not be accepted, will not enter DLAR facilities, and may not be used for research or teaching activities.
4. Imported animals will be placed in quarantine in a DLAR-approved facility until such time as they are deemed acceptable for introduction into the general animal housing area.