



UAF POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Policy/Procedure: Source Health Monitoring/Check of Newly Acquired Animals in the University Animal Facilities

Animal Arrival, Quarantine, and Acclimation

The specific day of the week the animals will arrive is dependent upon the species requested and the supplier providing the animals. A majority of the rodents ordered arrive on Mondays. In any case, the animals should be permitted to acclimate to the new environment and recover from the stresses of shipping prior to your beginning any research project. There is good scientific evidence to suggest that a minimum acclimation period of 72 hours is required for rodents to return to pre-shipment status [Landi, M., Krieder, J.W., Lang, C.M., and Bullock, L.P. (1982), Effect of shipping on the immune functions of mice. *Am.J.Vet.Res.* 43:1654-1657 and Dymysza, H.A., S.A. Miller, J.F. Maloney, *et.al.* (1963), Equilibration of the laboratory rat following exposure to shipping stresses. *Lab.Anim.Care* 13:60-65]. Routine Quarantine-Acclimation periods have been established by UAF for different species and are listed below:

Rodents from approved suppliers	3 days
SPF rabbits	4 days

These quarantine-acclimation periods are recommended for a majority of research projects but may vary for different investigator's needs. During the quarantine-acclimation period for each species a variety of health and research related procedures may occur such as blood tests, identification tattooing, fecal parasite tests, etc. A full listing of the routine UAF quarantine procedures for each species can be found in the UAF Standard Operating Procedures, which can be reviewed in the UAF office. Please contact the UAF Director if your specific needs vary from the recommendations listed.

Vendors supplying animals to BGSU shall provide animals free of internal and external parasites. The vendor will also supply documentation to the UAF at a minimum of once per year evidence that the animals they supply are Specific Pathogen Free (SPF). The vendor at the request of University Animal Facilities will also supply this information. If no health monitoring report is available or if the report indicates some condition may exist, further tests will be performed and the animal(s) will be quarantined and isolated from all other animals in the BGSU Animal Facility. No animal will be accepted showing signs of overt clinical illness or disease. If clinical illness or disease is noted the animals will be euthanized and the vendor/source notified of the unsatisfactory delivery.

Monitoring/Check of Newly Acquired Animals Receiving and Quarantine of Rodents Within the BGSU Animal Facility

1. Animals will be purchased and received from breeders on the approved University Animal Facility list.
2. Animals from sources not supplying health reports (Wild-Caught or Non-Vendor) will be placed in quarantine and may be required to undergo serological tests.
3. All arriving warm blooded vertebrate animals are received at the Life Science Annex.
4. Each animal is given an inspection by Animal Facilities staff.
 - Check for: overt signs of poor health and unthriftiness
 - Physical trauma
 - Behavior problems
 - Correct age, sex and weight
5. Other possible health problems to check for:
 - Abscesses
 - Alpecia
 - Cancer or neoplasia
 - Dermatitis
 - Ectomeli (skin lesions)
 - Ectoparasites
 - Enteritis
 - Malocclusion
 - Mastitis
 - Ringtail
 - Silodacryoadenitis (enlarged salivary glands bulging and inflamed eyes)
6. Animals are placed in appropriate housing.
7. All animal shipping boxes are removed from the facility (boxes never come in contact with other rodents or rodent rooms).
8. All rodents from approved vendors will be acclimated for 72 hours before use. Other rodents received will be quarantined for a minimum of 72 hours to as long as necessary to assure that health of the new animals is acceptable and that no diseases are being introduced into the general population.
9. Sentinel animals undergo serological tests yearly.

Receiving and Quarantine of Rabbits Within the BGSU Animal Facility

1. Upon arrival, University Animal Facilities staff shall inspect each rabbit.

Monitoring/Check of Newly Acquired Animals

2. Rabbits showing overt signs of disease will be rejected
Check for:
 - Ear mites
 - Snuffles
 - Sore hocks
 - Diarrhea
 - Missing hair
 - Malocclusion
 - Other signs of poor health and unthriftiness
3. If rejection of a rabbit is in question the veterinarian will determine the acceptability.
4. Records will be checked for the proper IACUC approval number.
5. Purchase orders will be checked for sex, weight, and number of animals.
6. Only rabbits from BGSU approved suppliers will be housed in communal rabbit rooms.
7. Rabbits will be given a period of 4 days to acclimation before use.

Health Examinations of Rabbits Within the BGSU Animal Facility

Daily Observations

Check each animal for:

- a. Discharge from the eyes.
- b. Under and over grooming
- c. Abnormal amounts of urine and/or feces
- d. Injury or lameness
- e. Normal activity and behavior

Weekly Observations

Check each animal for:

- a. Weighing the animal
- b. Sore hocks and overgrown toenails
- c. Abnormalities in the fur caused by ectoparasites
- d. Ear mites
- e. Snuffles

Monthly Observations

Monthly health exams include:

- a. Checking the animal's identification number
- b. Checking for malocclusion
- c. Checking rectal and genital areas
- d. Trimming the toenails