

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital  
IACUC Policy #12-13

### **Pathogen Screening**

**Policy:** All incoming animals to the VA Animal Research Facility (ARF) **must be accompanied by a recent health report** (no more than 90 days old) **proving them Specific-Pathogen-Free (SPF)**, or they will not be accepted into the facility. This report includes a serology test (comprehensive panel) and a parasitology evaluation (internal and external.) A fecal PCR test for *Helicobacter* is also required. In facilities that routinely test for *Helicobacter*, the test must be less than 180 days old. In facilities that do not routinely test, a *Helicobacter* PCR test must be run on the animals to be transferred and the VMC will decide if the animals will be accepted into the facility based on those results. In the case that a PI cannot acquire his animals SPF and *Helicobacter*-free, the ACOS, the VMC and the ARF supervisor will decide on a case by case basis whether the animals may be quarantined in the ARF.

In the event that an animal may carry a rodent pathogen (because they were given rodent cells) there are three options prior to acceptance into the ARF:

- 1) Require a copy of certification that the cell line was specific pathogen free when it was bought from the manufacture (and that it hasn't passed through rodents since then. (or that the live mice he took the cells/tissue from were SPF)
- 2) The investigator could have his cell line/donor mice tested to be SPF.
- 3) Leaving what to do about mice given cells/tissue that the health status is "unknown"
  - a. For tissue/primary cells from live mice: "not allowed" (just like mice with unknown *Helicobacter* status are not allowed in the ARF)
  - b. For a cell line: the investigator would have to explain why he couldn't purchase the cell line certified SPF or have his cells tested to SPF.

### **Helicobacter-free animals**

All newly purchased animals of standard strains **must be certified *Helicobacter*-free**, or they will not be housed at the VA ARF. Genetically modified strains (transgenics, knockouts e.g.) sent from another research facility which test positive for *Helicobacter* must be derived *Helicobacter*-free using foster dams in a facility other than the ARF. Any *Helicobacter*-positive mice currently residing in the ARF must be rederived by fostering within six months following notification of the PI.

All rodents coming into the ARF that have been given human cells (such as a human tumor line in nude mice) should be handled with BSL-2 procedures (i.e. handle the mice as if they carry a human pathogen).

Serology Test:

Comprehensive Panel – Mice	Comprehensive Panel – Rats
Ectro	CARB
EDIM	Han
M. pul	LCM
MAD 1	M. pul
MAD 2	MAD 1
MHV	Parvo (NS1)
MNV	H1
Sendai	KRV
LCM	RMV
MPV(MPV1,MPV2,MPV3)	RPV
MVM (MMV)	PVM
NS1	RCV
Polyoma	REO 3
PVM	Sendai
REO 3	TMEV
TMEV	Tyzzer's

**Responsibilities:****1. Role of the Investigator**Health Report on *Helicobacter*

When ordering animals, the investigator must request a health report to accompany the new arrivals. In addition, he/she must specify *Helicobacter*-free animals. **Animals arriving *Helicobacter*-positive without prior approval will not be accepted.** Any mouse or rat colonies residing in the ARF that test positive for *Helicobacter* during routine sentinel testing must be re-derived within six months following notification of the PI.

Personnel Precautions for *Helicobacter* Infected Animals (in case of an outbreak)

All personnel entering infected rooms or handling infected animals must use quarantine precautions prescribed by the Veterinary Medical Consultant (VMC). These will include, at least, using disposable gloves, wearing lab coats (to be kept in the animal room), and

disposing of shoe covers upon exiting room. For any necessary surgical procedures, the animals must be kept in their cages for transport to a designated procedure room and the outside of the cage must be disinfected with an approved disinfectant (i.e. Clidox) before leaving the housing room. Empty cages must then be bagged and the outside of the bag must be disinfected with the disinfectant before return to the rest of the facility

Investigators will make every reasonable attempt to assign only one or two of their personnel to the handling of infected animals in the VA facility, and, if possible, to assign different personnel to work with any animals the investigator is housing in UW facilities.

Investigators with access to UW and VA facilities who wish to study infected animals will be encouraged to house ALL of their animals at the UW to minimize traffic back and forth between clean and infected rooms.

## **2. Role of the Veterinary Medical Consultant and Animal Research Facility Staff**

### Receiving Animals

ARF staff will inspect health reports of all arriving animals. Animals without health reports or cannot be proven *Helicobacter*-free without prior approval **will not be accepted**.

In the case of an outbreak, Standard Operating Procedures for *Helicobacter*-infected rooms will be posted on doors of all infected rooms.

### ARF Staff Precautions (in case of an outbreak)

Animal care staff must use quarantine precautions prescribed by the VMC. These precautions include wearing gloves, lab coats, and disposable shoe covers and entering infected rooms only after all clean room checks are done.

**Questions:** Any questions on this policy should be directed to the A.O. (280-7222).

### **References:**

- UW RARC's comprehensive testing panel

**Effective date:** This policy was approved at the IACUC meeting on 10/18/01; it was reapproved at the IACUC meeting on 11/27/01. The Policy was revised again at the IACUC meeting on 07/11/05, 7/07/08, 7/13/2009, 6/28/2010, 3/07/2011, 7/11/12 & 9/11/2013.