



## CM SOP #203 – Rodent Quarantine Husbandry

Original release date: 05/30/2024    Version: 5    Date last revised: 03/19/2026

### I. Purpose & Scope

To establish standardized procedures for the receipt, quarantine, health evaluation, and release of rodents imported from non-approved vendors or institutions into Comparative Medicine (CM)-managed vivaria at FAU.

This SOP applies to all CM personnel involved in the importation, housing, husbandry, testing, and release of rodents housed in quarantine.

The purpose of quarantine is to:

- Prevent introduction of adventitious agents into established colonies
- Ensure animals meet institutional health standards prior to release
- Maintain compliance with institutional policies, IACUC requirements, and regulatory expectations

### II. Roles & Responsibilities

#### Comparative Medicine Staff

- Perform all quarantine procedures in accordance with this SOP and veterinary direction
- Receive, process, and house incoming animals in quarantine
- Conduct daily health checks and husbandry
- Collect and process diagnostic samples as directed
- Maintain accurate and complete quarantine records (CM014 and room logs)
- Immediately report abnormalities, clinical concerns, or positive/equivocal test results to veterinary staff

#### Research Staff, Students, Visitors

Not applicable

#### CM Management

- Coordinate quarantine space availability with veterinary staff and Shipping Coordinator
- Assign trained personnel to manage quarantine shipments
- Ensure quarantine areas are secured with restricted access
- Ensure staff training and adherence to SOP procedures
- Coordinate communication with investigators following veterinary decisions

#### CM Director and AV

- Oversee all aspects of quarantine, animal health evaluation, and release decisions
- Review health reports from originating institutions and determine import feasibility
- Establish required testing, treatment, and quarantine duration
- Direct PPE requirements, husbandry practices, and biosecurity procedures



- Approve final disposition of animals (release, additional testing, treatment, or euthanasia)
- Ensure program alignment with institutional, regulatory, and animal welfare standards

### III. General Notes & Definitions

- Non-approved vendor: Any source not included on FAU's approved vendor list or without current acceptable health reports
- Quarantine: Physical and procedural separation of animals to prevent disease transmission

#### Key Program Expectations:

- Access to quarantine rooms is restricted to essential CM personnel only
- Research personnel are not permitted unless approved and escorted
- No routine experimental procedures or breeding are allowed during quarantine

#### Housing and Quarantine Management

- Animals will be housed in:
  - IVC systems or
  - Autoclavable microisolator cages
- Quarantine animals are maintained in separate rooms from resident colonies
- Multiple shipments:
  - Physically separated within room or housed in separate rooms
  - Serviced in chronological order (oldest → newest)

### IV. Materials & Equipment

- PPE (gown, gloves, mask, bouffant, shoe covers, or Tyvek® as indicated)
- Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) or Cage Changing Station (CCS)
- Disinfectants (approved agents with defined contact times)
- Autoclavable cages and microisolator systems
- Cage cards and holders
- Water bottles and/or automated watering system
- Red plastic huts/enrichment
- Health cards, treatment stickers, single housing identifiers
- Flashlights, cleaning supplies, and waste bags
- Rodent Quarantine Record (CM014)
- Room logbook and progress notes

### V. Procedure

#### A. Preparation

1. Obtain written quarantine testing and management plan (*CM SOP 204: Rodent Quarantine Testing*) from AV
2. Confirm shipment timing and coordinates with import coordinator and Veterinary Services Manager (VSM)
3. Ensure the following have been prepared
  - a) Per diem sheets
  - b) Time and supply logs
  - c) Daily check sheets and logbook
  - d) Cage setups, food, water bottles, enrichment



e) Disinfectants and supplies

f) PPE and waste materials

**B. Receiving Animals**

1. Receive shipment per *CM SOP: 406 Rodent Receiving*
2. Inspect shipping container for damage
3. Disinfect exterior of container (observe contact time)
4. Verify shipment against documentation and notify VSM of any discrepancies
5. Transport to quarantine on disinfected cart (spray wheels before entry)

**C. Unpacking**

1. Don required PPE per room signage (minimum: bouffant cap, shoe covers, disposable gown)
2. Disinfect and prepare BSC/CCS
3. Place shipping container, clean cages, and waterbottles inside inside BSC/CCS
4. Open container lid (rather than using the window, which restricts movement).
5. Remove animals, perform cursory health check, and transfer to clean cages
6. Ensure cage cards include:
  - a) PI/protocol or CM Holding Protocol
  - b) Strain, sex, age/DOB, vendor
7. Retain and attach original vendor cage cards if applicable
8. Disinfect work area
9. Bag, disinfect, and immediately remove shipping materials to dumpster

**D. Husbandry and Daily Care**

1. Follow *CM SOP 402: Rodent Husbandry and Care*
2. Perform daily health checks
3. Perform cage changes per schedule or as needed

**E. Handling and Waste Procedures**

1. Leave used water bottles on cages for autoclaving (remove lids)
2. Maintain dirty caging as full setups → disinfect exterior → transfer to cage wash
3. Observe disinfectant contact time prior to removal
4. Autoclave all applicable materials per SOP
5. Non-autoclavable items:
  - a) Remain in quarantine or
  - b) Process per veterinary direction
6. Bag and disinfect trash, and remove directly to dumpster
7. Do not re-enter clean facility areas with quarantine waste

**F. Biosecurity Workflow**

1. Service quarantine rooms last
2. If re-entry into clean areas is required:
  - a) Full body shower (including hair)
  - b) Change into clean scrubs/PPE

**G. Release from Quarantine**

After all testing is complete:

1. Determine final disposition (AV):
  - a) Release to housing
  - b) Additional testing/treatment
  - c) Euthanasia
  - d) Other actions
2. AV communicates decision to researcher
3. VSM



- a) Prints cage cards
  - b) Documents release
  - c) Notifies PI
  - d) Coordinates animal transfer
4. After removal:
- a) Room is cleaned and disinfected
  - b) Equipment processing determined by AV + FM

#### H. Recordkeeping

- Rodent Quarantine Record (CM014; created prior to animal arrival)
- Includes:
  - Health reports
  - Veterinary testing plans
  - Sample tracking
  - Test results
  - Final disposition
- Completed by VT and reviewed by AV
- Additional Records (Maintained for ≥3 years):
  - Health reports from originating institution
  - Shipping documentation and health certificates
  - Diagnostic results
  - Email communications
  - Progress notes

#### VI. Health & Safety

- Required PPE must be worn at all times per room signage
- PPE must not be worn outside quarantine areas
- PPE removed and discarded prior to exiting
- Hands washed/sanitized immediately upon exit
- All equipment leaving quarantine must be disinfected and processed
- Personnel must be trained in:
  - Animal handling
  - PPE use
  - Disinfection procedures
- Report:
  - Injuries
  - Animal health concerns
  - Equipment failures

#### VII. References & Attachments

- FAUSOP 402 – Rodent Husbandry and Care
- FAUSOP 406 – Rodent Receiving
- SOP 204 – Quarantine Testing Protocol
- *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*
- PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- [FAU's Approved Vendor List](#)



**VIII. Revision History**

<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Summary of Changes</b>
06/02/2021	2	Separated out Husbandry, Testing and Import information from overarching Quarantine protocol into 3 separate protocols (SOP 203, 204 and additions to 006 previously).
05/30/2024	3	Revise wording; remove Building 035 as the quarantine facility as location is to be determined by veterinarian(s).
04/01/2026	4	Updated format, ensured ADA compliance, refine procedures, reworded throughout, updated titles

Approved by: Nicole Compo, DVM, DVSc, DAACLAM, Attending Veterinarian