



## CM SOP #204 – Rodent Quarantine Testing

Original release date: 03/11/2015    Version: 5    Date last revised: 03/23/2026

### I. Purpose & Scope

To prevent the introduction of excluded rodent pathogens into established FAU rodent colonies through standardized quarantine, testing, and veterinary evaluation procedures.

This SOP applies to all Comparative Medicine (CM) personnel, including veterinary, husbandry, and management staff, involved in the receipt, housing, testing, treatment, and release of rodents imported into FAU vivaria quarantine spaces.

This SOP applies to all rodents entering FAU facilities from:

- Non-approved vendors
- Other academic or research institutions
- International sources
- Any source requiring quarantine at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian (AV)

### II. Roles & Responsibilities

#### Comparative Medicine Staff (ACT II or higher)

- Review incoming health reports and flag concerns
- Maintain quarantine intake schedule/waitlist
- Perform (see *CM SOP 203: Rodent Quarantine Husbandry*):
  - Animal receipt and uncrating
  - Initial health evaluations
  - Sample collection (PCR, serology, parasitology)
  - Treatment administration as directed
- Submit samples to diagnostic laboratories
- Perform or coordinate in-house testing as needed
- Immediately notify AV of:
  - Positive/equivocal results
  - Abnormal clinical findings
- Perform daily husbandry and observations
- Follow all quarantine-specific procedures and PPE requirements
- Maintain accurate documentation (CM forms, logs)

#### Research Staff, Students, Visitors

- Provide complete and accurate health documentation from originating institution
- Comply with all quarantine restrictions:
  - No access unless approved and escorted
  - No experimental manipulations unless explicitly approved
- Participate in discussions regarding:
  - Positive findings
  - Treatment, rederivation, or disposition plans



- Acknowledge risks when requesting import from non-approved sources

#### CM Management

- Coordinate quarantine space allocation with AV/Director
- Ensure controlled access to quarantine areas
- Oversee receipt and placement of animals into quarantine
- Ensure staffing coverage for quarantine husbandry
- Maintain quarantine records in room logbooks
- Notify PI upon veterinary release and coordinate transfer
- Oversee post-quarantine room sanitation
- Training Coordinator / CM Leadership:
- Ensure all personnel are trained and competent in quarantine procedures
- Ensure adherence to SOP and retraining as needed

#### CM Director and AV

- Provide oversight of all quarantine activities and animal health decisions
- Review health reports from originating institutions/vendors
- Determine:
  - Need for quarantine
  - Testing strategy (standard vs. non-standard)
  - Length of quarantine
  - PPE and husbandry requirements
    - Release or disposition of animals
- Interpret all diagnostic results and determine final disposition:
  - Release, additional testing/treatment, rederivation, or euthanasia
- Develop mitigation plans for positive findings (e.g., cross-fostering, rederivation)
- Ensure SOP compliance and appropriate CM staff training

### III. General Notes & Definitions

- Non-approved vendors: Any source not on FAU's approved vendor list
- Quarantine is required at the discretion of the AV, regardless of provided health reports
- Access to quarantine is restricted to essential CM personnel
- Breeding in quarantine is discouraged
  - If allowed, must be AV-approved and timed so parturition occurs after release
- FAU's Excluded Pathogen List can be accessed on the Comparative Medicine website

### IV. Materials & Equipment

- *CM Form 011: Rodent Quarantine Record*
- PPE as specified per room signage
- Disinfectants (per CM sanitation SOPs; appropriate contact times required)
- Sample collection materials:
  - Sterile swabs
  - Fecal collection tools
- Diagnostic lab submission materials
- As needed and at the discretion of the AV:



- Ivermectin (10 mg/mL)
- Fenbendazole medicated feed
- Autoclavable transport containers and bags

## V. Procedure

### 1. Preparation

- a. AV provides written quarantine/testing plan for non-standard shipments
- b. VT and CM Management coordinate:
  - i) Arrival timing
  - ii) Room availability
- c. VT prepares and provides Rodent Quarantine Record
- d. Quarantine space prepared prior to arrival

### 2. Receipt of Animals

- a. Received by Vivarium Operations Manager (VOM) or designated ACT
- b. Follow veterinarian-approved housing and testing plan  
*Note: Testing paradigms for rats will be at the discretion of the veterinarian and will be provided in writing to CM staff*
- c. Perform initial health assessment
- d. Report abnormalities immediately

### 3. Standard Quarantine Testing

- a. Day 0–1: Health evaluation
- b. Day 4–14:
  - i) Specimens: fecal pools and body/fur swabs
  - ii) Include parasitology panel

### 4. Non-Standard Quarantine

Applies to:

- a. International imports
- b. Selected domestic shipments per AV

May include:

- a. Customized testing plan
- b. Serology testing (Day 21–28)

### 5. Sampling Strategy

- a. ≤10 animals: All animals represented
- b. >10–40 animals: ≥25% sampled
- c. >40 animals: ≥10% sampled (case-by-case adjustment)

Sampling designed to achieve:

- a. ~95% confidence detection
- b. Based on assumed prevalence (15–30%)

### 5. Positive Results Management

- a. Immediate AV notification
- b. Confirmatory testing requested from diagnostic laboratory
- c. AV consults with PI
- d. Potential actions:
  - i) Treatment
  - ii) Rederivation
  - iii) Cross-fostering
  - iv) Relocation

### 6. Treatment Protocols

- a. Endoparasites: Fenbendazole feed × 6 weeks



- b. Ectoparasites: Ivermectin topical (1  $\mu$ L/5 g BW), Day 1 and Day 10

**CAUTION** Avoid Ivermectin in:

- i) Neonates
  - ii) ABCB1 mutant mice
  - iii) Cre-ER lines
  - iv) Animals with compromised blood brain barriers (BBB)
- c. Others as directed by the AV and in consultation with the PI

## 7. Release from Quarantine

- a. AV determines final disposition:
  - i) Release
  - ii) Additional testing/treatment
  - iii) Euthanasia
  - iv) Other justified actions
- b. Vet staff:
  - i) Notifies PI via email
  - ii) Coordinates transfer to housing
- c. Post-release:
  - i) Full room sanitation required
  - ii) Non-routine decontamination determined by AV

## 8. Recordkeeping

- a. Rodent Quarantine Record
  - i) Veterinary written testing plans
  - ii) Diagnostic results
  - iii) Health Reports from originating institutions
  - iv) Shipping documentation and health certificates
  - v) Relevant communications
- b. Requirements
  - i) Completed in real time with dates/initials
  - ii) Final AV disposition recorded
  - iii) PI notification documented
- c. Additional records to be completed
  - i) VSATS entries
  - ii) Health Progress Notes (if applicable)
  - iii) Room logs

## VI. Health & Safety

- PPE must be donned/doffed per posted signage
- Strict biocontainment practices required
- All items exiting quarantine:
  - Disinfected with appropriate contact time
  - Sent to cagewash and autoclaved when possible
  - Non-autoclavable items sanitized per veterinary/FM direction
- No eating, drinking, or personal items in quarantine areas
- Follow institutional biosafety and occupational health requirements

## VII. References & Attachments

- *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (2011)
- FAU IACUC Policies (Recordkeeping, Veterinary Care, Importation)



- CM SOPs
  - 200: Rodent Health Surveillance
  - 202: Rodent Health monitoring and Reporting
  - 203: Rodent Quarantine Husbandry
  - 213: Workflow Within and Between Vivaria
- CM Form 011: Rodent Quarantine Record
- [Excluded Pathogen List by Campus](#)

**VIII. Revision History**

Revision Date	Revision Number	Summary of Changes
01/06/2016	1	Review of sent vendor health reports, addition of excluded pathogen list, changed health status of Jupiter vivaria
07/26/2016	2	Update of pathogen exclusion list, update of testing of quarantine animals with addition of table for overview.
11/20/2020	3	Significant changes: Separate out duties to pertinent SOPs (Import of Rodents; Rodent Quarantine Non-Approved Vendors-Husbandry); update use of forms in quarantine along with job duties.
05/30/2024	4	Significant changes to reflect new procedures and VT duties.
03/23/2026	5	Updated formatting, made ADA compliant, removed references to sentinel testing and differing health statuses between campuses, removed serology, updated titles

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