

**POLICY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF
ANIMALS FROM BUILDING 10A TO THE
MOUSE IMAGING FACILITY AND RETURN TO 10A**

1. This policy addresses only the reentry of mice and rats to the 10A facility following imaging in the Mouse Imaging Facility (MIF). In spite of the name, this facility can also be used to image rats and other small animals. Mice from other NIH animal facilities can not be housed in the 10A MIF quarantine area. The policy pertains to animals presently in the 10A facility that plan on being returned to the 10A facility, unless terminal procedures take place during the quarantine phase.
2. The transport of animals to and from the imaging facilities is the responsibility of the investigator and must be coordinated with the 10A staff. Transportation of these animals must comply with the applicable guidelines and policies; the animals must be kept from public view. Mice and rats are to be transported in microisolator cages. The cage and its filter must be banded together to prevent the escape of the animals in case of an accident. Food and water bottles should be removed.
3. Investigators are obligated to use every reasonable precaution to prevent their animals from contacting potential murine pathogens in the mouse imaging facility. This includes disinfection of surfaces and gloved hands with the disinfectant supplied by the facility and the use of disinfected restraint devices (disinfected by the facility). Keep in mind that other animals being imaged in this facility will come from facilities of varying pathogen status.
4. Investigators must notify the 10A facility (phone 402-0456) when animals will be leaving and returning so that facility personnel can meet them at the entry to the 10A facility. Returning animals are to be taken by the 10A staff to the B1 entry to the 10A facility off the building 10 D corridor. Animals may be returned to the 10A facility from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekdays only. The imaging facility can house mice overnight, but they must be removed from these holding rooms by 12:00 noon on Fridays and by the same hour on any day before a holiday. Arrangements to house mice in the MIF must be made in advance and approved by the MIF staff.
5. Upon receipt of animals being returned from imaging, facility personnel will place the cage(s) in a plastic bag and immediately take it to the quarantine room set aside for animals after imaging. The microisolator cages are removed from the plastic bag in the biosafety hood, the animals are observed and placed in a clean microisolator cage, the bottom of the new cage and the operator's gloved hands are sprayed with Clidox, and then the cage(s) are placed on the cage rack. The used cage(s) is placed into the plastic bag, the bag sprayed with Clidox, removed from the room, and the bag and cages are autoclaved.

6. During quarantine the following applies:

a. One sentinel cage of two immuno-competent animals will be set up for each group of returning animals. A group is all of the animals returned by one investigator for up to two weeks. In addition to the cage of sentinels, one easily identified immuno-competent female sentinel will be placed in each cage of imaged animals. Testing for a group starts when the last animal(s) return from imaging.

b. If a group of animals will be imaged several times, testing for these animals will start when the animals return after the last imaging. The investigator needs to communicate to the facility if animals will be serially imaged and when.

c. Dirty bedding from the cages will be placed in a cage used for sentinel animals every time the cages are changed.

d. During quarantine, moribund imaged animals will be submitted for a complete diagnostic work-up.

e. After 5 weeks of quarantine, all sentinel animals will be submitted for a complete screen.

f. If test results are negative for murine pathogens, the animals will then be returned to the using IC's cages. If the testing indicates that the animals have been exposed to murine pathogens that are not permitted in the 10A facility, the animals in that group must be removed from the 10A facility within 3 work days.

g. Animals that are returned after imaging that will not be returned to a holding room in 10A may be held a maximum of 6 weeks. The use of sentinels and the testing of the research animals is at the discretion of the facility veterinarian.

h. The cost of sentinels and testing of returning animals in quarantine will be charged to the investigator. During the quarantine period, only 10A animal care personnel will have access to the area, investigators can not manipulate or perform procedures on the animals during this time.

Additional Information:

- A. Mice that are to be serially imaged may be housed in the mouse imaging facility during the week if advance arrangements have been approved by the MIF staff. These animals must be removed from the holding rooms of the mouse imaging facility by noon on Friday and by noon on any day preceding a holiday.
- B. Dr. Davis will share health standards that are applied to the use of the mouse imaging facility with Dr. O'Brien as they are developed.

Signature of Principal Investigator - Date

Policy Approved: June 27, 2002