Georgia State University
DAR Downtown Operation
Standard Operating Procedures

SOP #: 038
Date Revised: 04/07/2015
Veterinarian Signature: [Signature]
IACUC Signature: [Signature]

Quarantine

1. Animals arriving from non-commercial vendors will be quarantined.
2. Animals under quarantine must remain in the animal housing room and associated ante-room until the time that they are released from quarantine.
3. Animals under quarantine will be housed in either ventilated cages or static micro-isolator cages.
4. Upon arrival quarantined mice will receive 3 microliters of Moxidectin per mouse to empirically treat for fur mites. At the discretion of the veterinarian, a second dose may be given 10 days after the first.
5. Quarantined animals will undergo a cage change on day 6 after arrival.
6. On day 7 after arrival, the samples will be obtained for quarantine testing (see veterinarian for specific samples to collect and testing profiles to run as this will vary on a case by case basis). Also at this time the animals will receive fenbendazole-impregnated rodent diet or fenbendazole-impregnated Napa nectar. The fenbendazole-impregnated diet or fenbendazole-impregnated Napa nectar will be administered for a period of six weeks to empirically treat for pinworms. The six week treatment regimen may be discontinued at the discretion of the University Veterinarian commensurate with pinworm testing results.
7. Quarantine-housing rooms must be entered last of all facility rooms on campus, unless door signage directs otherwise.
8. Follow signage on the door as to what personal protective equipment (PPE) is necessary.
   a. PPE includes: shoe covers, hair bonnet, gloves, disposable gown, face mask.

Revision Date: 04/07/2015
9. All PPE must be disposed of in a biohazard container in the anteroom. Disposable gowns may be reused and hung on a hook inside the quarantine-housing room.

10. Cages under quarantine must be opened and changed consistent with DAR SOP #44 entitled “Change outs for Rodents Using the Biological Safety Cabinets – All BSL2, BSL2+, and Quarantine Cages.”

11. Multiple orders of quarantine animals may be housed in one quarantine room at the same time. The University Veterinarian will designate the cage change order.

12. Animals in quarantine will be tested under the following paradigm (which may be modified by the University Veterinarian) with samples collected seven days after arrival:
   a. Pinworm PCR: Submit 1 fresh fecal pellet from each cage or animal. Up to 10 fecal pellets can be pooled to reduce costs. Fecal pellets for PCR evaluation should be collected with clean gloves or sterile forceps and placed in individually labeled sterile containers. The veterinarian will determine the number of samples to collect. Follow the fecal pellet collection method specified below.
   b. Fur mite PCR: Two options are available for testing mice or rats for fur mites: Pelt swabs or cage swabs. The veterinarian will determine the number of samples to collect. Follow the pelt swab collection method or the cage swab collection method below.
   c. Helicobacter and Viral PCR: The veterinarian will decide the assay to run after reviewing the incoming animal health report from the shipping institution. Follow the fecal pellet collection method specified below.
   d. Opti-Spot Viral and Bacterial Serology: The veterinarian will determine the number of samples to collect. Follow the Opti-Spot blood collection method specified below.
   e. Additional testing may be determined by the veterinarian (e.g. *Pasteurella pneumotropica* oral culture swab, gross pathology, etc.).

**Fecal pellet collection method:**
Fecal pellets for PCR evaluation should be collected with clean gloves or sterile forceps and placed in individually labeled sterile containers.
If testing of individual mice is required, submit fecal pellets from each mouse. Two to three pellets per animal are adequate. **NOTE:** fresh fecal pellets either obtained directly from mice or from soiled cages within 24 hours of the most recent cage change are recommended for testing.
If multiple animals of the same microbiologic status are to be evaluated, up to 10 fecal pellets can be pooled and tested as one sample. If fecal pellets from multiple animals are to be collected, gloves should be changed or forceps should be replaced between animals to prevent cross-contamination. Alternatively, forceps can be wiped clean and immersed in dilute bleach (10%) solution for 10 minutes prior to reuse.

Revision Date: 04/07/2015
Fecal pellets for identification of Helicobacters and MNV should be shipped by an overnight carrier, but do not need to be chilled or frozen. Fecal pellets for identification of other viruses should be shipped to IDEXX by an overnight courier at room temperature or with cold pack(s).

**Pelt swab collection method:**
Using a sterile, dry flocked swab, thoroughly swab against the direction of hair growth of the head, rump and inguinal area of one or more mice or rats in the cage. Up to 10 animals can be swabbed using one swab, or use a new swab for each animal combining up to 10 swab tips per sample. Insert the swab halfway into a sterile microcentrifuge tube, close the microcentrifuge tube lid against the swab shaft and pull down on the swab shaft to break the shaft. The tip end will fall into the tube and the tube can be capped. Plastic shaft swabs are preferred over wooden shaft swabs as they break cleanly. Swabs can be shipped by overnight courier at room temperature or on ice packs.

**Cage swab method:**
Using a sterile, dry flocked swab, swab the inside perimeter of empty soiled mouse or rat cages. ANIMALS SHOULD HAVE OCCUPIED THE CAGES FOR AT LEAST 4 DAYS PRIOR TO USING THIS METHOD. Swab the inside perimeter of the cage at the level of the bedding. Up to 10 cages can be swabbed using the same swab. Insert the swab halfway into a sterile microcentrifuge tube, close the microcentrifuge tube lid against the swab shaft and pull down on the swab shaft to break the shaft. The tip end will fall into the tube and the tube can be capped. Plastic shaft swabs are preferred over wooden shaft swabs as they break cleanly. Swabs can be shipped by overnight courier at room temperature or on ice packs.

**Opti-Spot blood collection method:**
Opti-spot serology samples will be collected via venipuncture. The whole blood sample will be placed on an IDEXX strip/card, there should be enough blood to saturate the diameter of the circle on the strip. The blood should be allowed to dry for at least an hour. The upper tab over the dried spot is folded and the card/strip is placed in a waterproof plastic bag with the silica gel desiccant pack. The sample is shipped at room temperature or with cold pack(s).

13. Animals in quarantine may not be bred unless special approval is granted by the veterinarian.

14. Researchers do not have access to quarantine unless special approval is granted by the veterinarian, in which case the researcher would be escorted by DAR.