University at Albany
Standard Operating Procedure
Rodent Quarantine for Animals from Unapproved Vendors

1.0 Purpose
This SOP describes the husbandry, care and procedures for mice and rats that are received into the University’s animal facilities from unapproved vendors.

2.0 Scope of Responsibility
All research and animal care staff are responsible for compliance with this SOP.

3.0 Definitions
3.1 Quarantine—a restraint upon the activities or communication of person or transport of goods designed to prevent the spread of disease or pests.

3.2 Approved vendors—Jackson Labs, Taconic, Charles River, Harlan

3.3 Unapproved vendors—everyone else

4.0 Equipment
Large plastic bin with lid

Transport cart

Autoclaved supplies—static cages, filter tops, wire lids, food, bedding, water, Nestlets Clidox spray 1:5:1

5.0 Procedure
5.1 Contact Attending Veterinarian to gain approval for shipment of animals from unapproved vendor.

5.2 Place shipping container with animals inside large sealed plastic bin. Place on cart and transport to the designated Quarantine room within the animal facility.

5.3 Remove lid and spray shipping containers with Clidox. Let sit five minutes and wipe with paper towels.

5.4 Move shipping containers into Biological Safety Cabinet.

5.5 Transfer animals under the hood into autoclaved caging. Provide food, water, bedding and enrichment, as necessary.
5.6 Place original shipping labels into cage card holders, or transfer all pertinent information onto cage cards.

5.7 Let animals acclimate for 2-3 days.

5.8 Collect fecal pellets from every cage and submit to Radil for Opti-Q Prevalent PCR testing panel.

5.9 Swab the pelt with a sterile swab (belly, back of neck, base of tail) for each animal and submit for fur mite PCR.

5.10 Perform anal tape test on each animal to check for pinworms.

5.11 Tape tests on all animals (quarantine and sentinel) will be performed every two weeks.

5.12 Perform at least weekly cage changing under the BSC (hood) or anytime the filter top is removed.

5.13 Place one teaspoon of dirty bedding from each quarantine cage into the designated sentinel cage at cage changing.

5.14 Sacrifice sentinel animals after 8 weeks of dirty bedding exposure and send to Radil for viral serology and parasitology.

5.15 Attending Veterinarian will release animals from Quarantine only after all test results have come back negative.

6.0 Important Considerations

6.1 Investigators are not allowed access to any animals while in Quarantine.

6.2 Only animal care staff can enter Quarantine.

6.3 Animals in Quarantine are checked once per day at the end of the day and the caretaker may not enter another animal room once he/she has gone into Quarantine.

6.4 For animals with a positive result on any surveillance test, the Veterinarian will discuss possible options, including rederivation, treatment, or euthanasia.

6.5 All equipment that leaves the Quarantine room will be bagged sprayed with Clidox 1:5:1 for transport and autoclaved before being washed.