



Animal Resource Center - Marquette University

Serology/Sentinel Program Policy for Rodent Colonies

All rodent colonies housed at Marquette University for more than 6 weeks, including all breeding colonies, need to have an annual health screening. PI's that will be sending animals to other institutions need to establish a quarterly health screening. PI's that work with a modified SPF animal room are encouraged to establish a quarterly health screening. Be aware that the ARC is only responsible for the cost and labor of the annual health screening.

Investigators are encouraged to use sentinel animals for the annual or quarterly health screening, but available non-sentinel animals may also be used for this purpose. Marquette's sentinel program consists of health monitoring of animals obtained from approved animal vendors or within the same animal colonies. The animals will go through a procedure consisting of placing a random sample of soiled bedding into their cage. The source of soiled bedding is rotated to include most of the cages in a rack. One sentinel animal per rack will be exposed with soiled bedding. For the annual and quarterly health screenings, the sentinels need to be exposed for at least 6 weeks before any health screening testing.

All the animals selected for testing are sent to RADIL (Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory), University of Missouri, for serological testing which includes the basic profile and parasitology. NOTE: quarterly health screenings checked for parasites only once a year, unless directed by the PI to include parasitology at each quarterly testing. Test results are sent to the ARC and the PI for their records.

Extra info:

<p>The basic profile for mice includes the following agents: <u>MHV, MMV, MPV, Sendai, Mycoplasma pulmonis, TMEV, EDIM, Parvo NS1, Ectromelia, LCM, PVM and REO3.</u></p>	<p>The basic profile for rats includes the following agents: <u>RCV, Sendai, PVM, Parvo, Mycoplasma pulmonis, TMEV, Reo3 and LCM</u></p>
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If the results of the serology are negative, the animal colony is labeled "clean room".

If the results are positive, the animal colony is labeled "dirty room", and a notice will be posted in the animal room warning everyone about the findings and the procedures that will follow. The animal room will be quarantined by making sure that cage changes are done at the end of the day, separate from all the other colonies. No new animals will be introduced into the room. No animals will be transferred out of the room. No room maintenance tools will be shared with other animal rooms. Additional animals from the room will be sent for serology to confirm the initial findings. A treatment, if available, will be established by the consulting veterinarian. If no treatment is available, subsequent serology reports show positive results, and all possible means of saving the colony have been exhausted, the animals will be humanely euthanized. The room will be disinfected before a new colony can moved in. The pay up for the cost of follow-up health screenings need to be determined by the ARC and PI.