



ACQUISITION OF RODENTS FROM NON-COMMERCIAL SOURCES

University of South Alabama
College of Medicine
Department of Comparative Medicine
Biologic Research Laboratory

To ensure that animals from non-commercial sources arriving at the University of South Alabama are in good condition and that no pathogenic agents are introduced into the Biologic Research Laboratory (BRL), the procedures discussed below are to be used.

The Principal Investigator (PI) should consult with Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM) personnel regarding the proposed acquisition of animals as far in advance of the anticipated shipping date as possible. DCM personnel will discuss the PI's requirements for these animals and, if breeding colonies are involved, any proposed breeding strategies are considered.

General Requirements and Information

- The DCM office will be responsible for making all shipping arrangements for the animals.
- The names, email addresses, and phone numbers of appropriate contact personnel (including animal facility personnel and the attending veterinarian) from the non-commercial source must be provided to Dr. Schuler and Ms. Pierce via email: dcm@usouthal.edu, mschuler@usouthal.edu, spierce@usouthal.edu
- An approved *Animal Use Protocol* regarding the use of these animals must currently be on file with the IACUC at the University of South Alabama.
- As part of its evaluation process and records system, the DCM will request complete animal health documentation from the non-commercial source. Information on specific husbandry, handling and breeding practices for the animals will also be requested.

Quarantine

- A minimum 30-day quarantine period in the BRL quarantine facility (Suite 1040 MSB) will be imposed on all animals acquired from non-commercial sources. The quarantine period may be extended past the minimal period depending upon the results of serological evaluation of the group, physical condition of the animals, or other factors as determined by Dr. Schuler.
- Live animals may not be removed from the quarantine area at any time for any purpose (other than terminal procedures) during the quarantine period.
- The PI will be notified upon the animals' release from quarantine and of the room to which they will be assigned.
- Research personnel are prohibited from entering the quarantine suite or working with quarantined animals during the required quarantine period.

Billing Information

- Expenses incurred in the acquisition and shipping of the animals will be initially paid by the DCM (unless pre-paid by the non-commercial source). These expenses will be charged to the Principal Investigator and will be included in the PI's next monthly invoice.