

Non-Routine Vendor Mouse Importation Q&A

1. What are non-routine vendors?

All rodents acquired from non-routine sources (e.g. other universities and institutions) are not permitted to enter standard housing at the University of Rochester until the health status of each group has been assessed by the veterinary staff. Animals originating from an academic institution or any source other than a UR-approved commercial vendor (Jackson Lab, Charles River, Taconic, Envigo) classifies the institution as a non-routine vendor.

2. How do I request mice from a non-routine vendor?

To request mice from a non-approved vendor, submit an "[Animal Import Form](#)", which can be found on the Animal Resource website. Please be sure to complete all requested information to avoid delays in processing your request. Once you have completed the form, Animal Resource staff will request and review necessary health report information from the institution. You will receive email updates regarding the status of your import request.

3. What are the costs associated with non-routine vendor mouse quarantine?

Please review the DCM Rodent Quarantine charges document located in the [Animal Resource website](#) for up-to-date information.

4. What is the quarantine process?

Within the first few days of arrival, the animals are individually sampled for internal and external parasites and prophylactically treated with a topical anti-parasitic medication. Fenbendazole diet is provided for prophylactic parasite treatment. At this time, a veterinary technician examines the animals. An inventory will be generated and sent to the research lab for review.

Two weeks after the first sampling and treatment, the mice are PCR tested for a panel of pathogens excluded at the University of Rochester. Mice are also re-treated with a topical anti-parasitic medication. Mice are released from quarantine once PCR test results are reviewed and approved by veterinary staff.

5. How long will my mice be in quarantine?

It is not possible to provide a definitive release date or total time in quarantine. The average quarantine length is approximately 3 weeks however this is strictly dependent on the results of health surveillance testing.

6. How will I find out when my mice are released?

You will receive an email from DCM staff when your animals are released from quarantine.

7. *Do I need to do anything to have my animals moved out of quarantine? How will I know when they've been moved?*

There is nothing to be done of the part of the investigator. DCM staff will label your cages and submit the move form to the Animal Resource Office. The animal care staff will then move the animals to your housing room. After the move is completed, you will receive a confirmation email from the Animal Resource administrative staff.

8. *Can I visit my mice while they are in quarantine?*

No. The quarantine room is restricted to Animal Resource and UCAR staff only.

9. *If I cannot see my animals, how do I ensure they are the animals I requested?*

Upon arrival, the purchasing coordinator will email you a copy of all cage cards and other information from the sending institution. The DCM technicians will inventory the mice upon arrival and compare the sender information (including individual animal identification) with information on the cage card. You will be alerted to any discrepancies identified during the inventory process.

10. *Can I breed my mice while they are in quarantine?*

Lab staff can request to breed imported mice to each other however, pairing of mice may only occur during their final week of quarantine by DCM technicians. There are additional charges associated with pairing mice for breeding purposes. Animals from your colony cannot be transferred into the quarantine room for breeding.

11. *Why can't I start breeding right away?*

Transportation is stressful and mice must be given adequate time to acclimate prior to breeding. Mice can only be paired in the final week in quarantine. This will prevent the movement of cages that contain young litters or late gestation dams at the conclusion of the quarantine period. Moving mice may cause stress, which can result in cannibalism of pups or spontaneous abortion.

12. *Can I move mice from my established colony into quarantine to breed with the mice that just arrived?*

No. To protect our resident population, mice from your colony are not permitted entry into quarantine.

13. *What are my options if I plan to use mice from a non-routine vendor acutely?*

Acute use is reserved for situations in which you plan to use imported mice within days to weeks of arrival for activities such as tissue harvest. To protect the health status of the resident mouse population, these mice are housed in the quarantine housing room and can only be taken to the necropsy room for euthanasia. Live mice cannot be taken to any other locations within the facility nor can they be brought to the lab. Lab members requesting acute use animals from non-routine vendors must receive training from DCM staff prior to order approval.