

Document Number: ANP008	Title: ACCLIMATIZATION AND PRE-STUDY HEALTH EVALUATION <i>CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION</i> MOLECULAR MEDICINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE	Effective Date: January 2005
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1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This document describes the procedures to ascertain that animals used for studies are free of any disease or condition that might interfere with the conduct or purpose of a study.

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 This procedure applies to animals in the MMRI animal care facility.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 It is the policy of MMRI to establish written and approved procedures to ensure that the health, safety and well being of both animals and employees are protected.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of Manager of Animal Research or designated alternate to implement this procedure and revise it when necessary.

5.0 REFERENCES

- 5.1 SOP #ANP014, Animal Procurement Status Log, Animal Procurement and Receipt, Appendix I
- 5.2 SOP #ANP023, Animal Room Maintenance Log, Routine Animal Care, Appendix I
- 5.3 SOP #ANP028, Sentinel Health Monitoring Program

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6.0 PROCEDURE

Note: Where practicable, each supplier has a separate animal room assigned.

6.1 Initial Observation

- 6.1.1 If the animals are shipped by air, isolate newly arrived animals in a clean animal room separate from the rest of the colony.
- 6.1.2 If the animals are shipped by road in Vendor transport, newly arrived animals should be placed on a separate clean rack from other animals.
- 6.1.3 Prepare an Animal Procurement Status form for the batch of animals. Evaluate and record information on the animals' general health and condition. Do the evaluation as the animals are being transferred from the shipping container to their cage.
- 6.1.4 Evaluate the following: Ears, eyes, haircoat, skin, tail, anal area, locomotion, musculature and general behavior. Please refer to Health Evaluation Check List.
- 6.1.5 Any animal that exhibits abnormal behavior or whose condition in the above areas is abnormal should be housed separately.
- 6.1.6 Document any abnormalities on the Animal Procurement Status Log and on the Animal Room Comment Sheet.
- 6.1.7 Notify the Animal Research Manager that the animals have been received and isolated. Also inform the Animal Research Manager of any abnormalities observed. Abnormal animals may have to be excluded from the study. The Animal Research Manager will recommend euthanasia, if necessary.

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6.2 Isolation/Acclimatization

- 6.2.1 Acclimate mice and rats for at least 72 hours. Some protocols may allow shorter acclimatization time.
- 6.2.2 During this 72-hour period, the animals should only be handled for cage changes. Newly arrived animals should be handled last. Gloves and gowns should be changed before dealing with these animals.
- 6.2.3 Observe the animals daily during isolation period. Make a note of any abnormalities in health or general condition on the animal comment sheet.
- 6.2.4 On the last day of the isolation period, clinical tests (e.g., hematology, urinalysis and fecal examination) may need to be performed. Refer to SOP #ANP028. Document the results of the clinical tests.

6.3 Release From Isolation

- 6.3.1 Prior to inclusion in a study, weigh all the animals. Evaluate the health and general condition of the animals. Please refer to Health Evaluation Check List.
- 6.3.2 Record the weight and health observations on the Pre-Study Health Evaluation Sheet (see Appendix I).
- 6.3.3 The Animal Research Manager or Study Director will review the Pre-Study Health Evaluation Sheet and determine which animals will participate in the study.
- 6.3.4 Abnormal or unhealthy animals cannot be used in the study. These and any extra animals can be maintained in isolation within the facility.

6.4 Data

- 6.4.1 File all data collected in the isolation period in the raw data files.

7.0 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix I - Pre-Study Health Evaluation, Form # 3
- 7.2 Appendix II- Health Evaluation Check List, Form #4

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Appendix I

**MMRI ANIMAL RESEARCH
PRE-STUDY HEALTH EVALUATION**

Date: _____ Study Title: _____
 Study No: _____
 Species: _____ Strain _____ Vendor _____ Barrier _____

ANIMAL I.D.	WEIGHT (g.)	OVERALL HEALTH	ANIMAL I.D.	WEIGHT (g.)	OVERALL HEALTH

All the above animals are in good health and are released from quarantine.

Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Appendix II Health Evaluation Check List

When evaluating the overall health and condition of a mouse or a rat, please use the following criteria:

- Ears:** Normal: pale in color,
Abnormal: red, bleeding, discharge, swelling,
- Eyes:** Normal: bright, alert, normal blink reflex
Abnormal: reddened conjunctiva or eyelids, discharge, opaque cornea, swelling, holding eye closed or excessive blinking
- Haircoat:** Normal: smooth, shiny, neat.
Abnormal: Dull, rough, ruffled, signs of alopecia
- Skin:** Normal: Pink, unbroken, absence of lesions,
Abnormal: bleeding, red, broken, flaky, lesions, abscesses, localized swellings
- Tail:** Normal: clean, smooth, pale pink in color
Abnormal: red, swollen, gangrenous, bleeding,
- Anal area:** Normal: clean, pale pink in color, possible to see clear vaginal discharge from females.
Abnormal: fecal material visible, diarrhea, red, swelling, opaque discharge
- Locomotion:** Normal: even gait, sitting up, stretching to investigate
Abnormal: limping, dragging a limb, circling with head tilted, excessive scratching, or pawing
- Musculature:**
Normal: toned, smooth,
Abnormal: atrophy, paralysis,
- Behavior:** Alert, responds to stimulus, stands on hind legs to investigate,
Abnormal: Coughing, listless, hunched posture, excessive sneezing, scratching or pawing, dyspnea