Subject: Rodent Quarantine and Procedures to Bypass Quarantine

BACKGROUND

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (the *Guide*, NRC 2011) states: “Quarantine is the separation of newly received animals from those already in the facility, in a way that prevents potential spread of contaminants, until the health and possibly the microbial status of the newly received animals have been determined.” (p. 110)

This Quarantine Bypass Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides detailed descriptions of procedures to be followed unless alternate procedures have been outlined and justified in an *IACUC Protocol Application or General Amendment Form* (approved deviations from SOPs are valid only for that protocol.

IACUC Policy

Rodents arriving to WSU from sources other than the approved commercial vendors (such as other universities) must undergo a quarantine period. This protects the existing colony of rodents at WSU from inadvertent introduction of diseases.

The IACUC recognizes that in certain circumstances, rodents may need to bypass this quarantine period and be brought directly to an investigator’s laboratory for experimental purposes. Bypassing quarantine must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the IACUC.

Quarantine Bypass Procedure

The following understanding and procedures must be agreed upon for any rodents that will be brought into DLAR/WSU facilities and taken directly to a WSU researcher laboratory, thus bypassing the formal DLAR Quarantine Procedures.

- All individuals who will be handling cages or rodents must wear lab coats and disposable gloves. In addition they must wash their hands at the end of all procedures and frequently enough during procedures to minimize inadvertent infectious material dispersal.

- DLAR must be notified of the day and time that empty cages will be returned. DLAR will arrange to have cages placed directly into the autoclave. Following euthanasia of rodents, empty cages (whether used or not) complete with bedding, food, and water must have their exterior surfaces sprayed with bleach and be allowed to sit undisturbed in the lab for at least 10 minutes. If these cages are not taken to DLAR for autoclaving until later in the day, or the next day, they must be re-sprayed just prior to being removed from the lab.

- Equipment should not be shared between quarantined animals and colony animals. If equipment must be shared, it must be thoroughly disinfected between groups.

- Dead rodents must be double bagged, bag surface sprayed with bleach and taken directly to the appropriate freezer for eventual disposal by DLAR.

- Once rodents have arrived in a laboratory, no one from the lab can visit any DLAR small animal housing quarters while the rodents are in the lab and for an additional 48 hours after carcass disposal. In addition, laboratory personnel should not visit other researchers during that time.