

1. PURPOSE

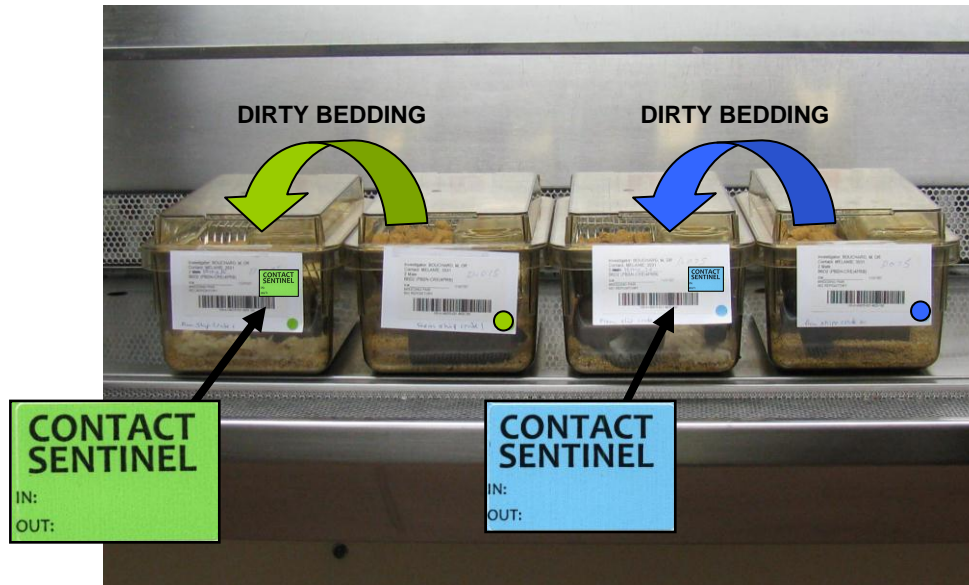
Contact sentinels are used to determine the health status of animals being imported from non-commercial or non-approved sources by directly and indirectly exposing them to any potential pathogens harbored by the imported animals thus protecting resident colonies from infectious contamination.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

Animal Care staff

3. PROCEDURES

- 3.1. There will be a minimum of 2 contact ovarietomized outbred sentinels per shipment or distinct line; each contact sentinel will be placed in a separate cage.
- 3.2. Cages containing contact sentinels will be clearly labeled with cage cards with colored dot stickers by the import coordinator.
- 3.3. If more than two cages are used to house the imported animals, transfer approximately one teaspoon of soiled bedding:
 - from the shipping containers upon arrival (if possible).
 - from every cage into the cage with sentinels at least once a week.
- 3.4. When there is more than one distinct line per shipment, each line will be identified with a different colored sticker on the cage card. This color will correspond to the color on the cage with the corresponding contact sentinels.



- 3.5. Special procedures for immunodeficient mice:

- 3.5.1. Contact sentinels will not be placed in the same cages with the immunodeficient animals. Direct contact will be avoided as they can become a source of infection.
- 3.5.2. Each week, transfer soiled bedding from the cages of the immunodeficient mice into the sentinels' cage.