

UAEC POLICY No: UP 12

SUBJECT: Requirements for maintaining laboratory animal breeding colonies to preserve a strain after 'hands on' research has been completed

RATIONALE: It is not appropriate to breed and cull laboratory animals for an indefinite period in the event they may be required for future research. (The Code, Section 1.13)

POLICY: The UAEC has determined that, under certain conditions, it is appropriate for a small breeding colony to be maintained until experimental data is published, at which point if no further use has or will occur, i) embryos/sperm/ovaries should be frozen down (cryopreservation) or ii) animals culled if the strain is no longer required.

CONDITIONS: The UAEC requires that for an AEC to approve the maintenance of a breeding colony beyond research, the following conditions must be addressed by the researcher/animal user.

- Before commencing a maintenance colony, the researcher/animal user must seek approval by advising and justifying to the AEC the need to do this. Information to be provided should include but not limited to, the expected time frame of continuance and the possible outcome(s) for the colony in the future.
- The strain must be listed on the UQBR Central strain database. During the period of maintenance described above, the chief investigator is encouraged to find other researchers that may be interested in this strain and make excess animals available to those researchers subject to AEC approval and any Material Transfer or Licensing agreements.
- During the period of maintenance, the researcher/animal user must consider the collection of embryos/sperm/ovaries and cryopreservation if this is the final outcome should future research not be forthcoming within the set time frame.
- Consultation during this time should be undertaken with UQBR to ensure that cryopreservation can be achieved and that the strain can be brought back, when and if required.
- The researcher/animal user must advise, when submitting yearly QDPI reports on animal use etc, as to how the publications are progressing and justify any additional time frame the maintenance colony may be required for, as well as advising on their well being.

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