



Dear Simon Fraser University Researcher,

The following pages detail the specifics necessary to import rodents from another institution to SFU. Increasing exchanges of rodents and rodent products among laboratories throughout the world has increased the risk for introducing unwanted organisms, especially among colonies that are not well protected by stringent preventive measures. As well, the risk of infection has increased due to the number of available genetically engineered rodents, whose responses to disease are less predictable.

The responsibility of maintaining specific pathogen free rodent colonies at SFU, rests in the hands of our researchers, as well as our technical and veterinary staff. Specific Pathogen Free or SPF, refers to a colony of rodents with a defined microflora and excludes those bacterial, viral, and parasitic diseases known to cause clinical or non-clinical disease in the rodent of interest. It is important to realize that SPF is not a standardized definition and those rodents from different universities and institutions may have different pathogens. Laboratory rodents are susceptible to more than 50 viral, bacterial, parasitic and fungal agents. Although the majority of these agents will not cause overt, clinical disease, they are likely to alter the experimental suitability of an animal.

Our goals for animal related research at SFU are to have our researchers produce the best possible data they can and to not compromise the welfare of our research animals with an extra burden of disease. Because researchers share many of our animal units, we must maintain a standard that suits everyone. As well, not maintaining an SPF colony may affect another institutions decision to import our animals. In consideration of these issues, the veterinary staff has developed the following recommendations on importation. (see attached documentation)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank You