



The 112th RIKEN **BRC SEMINAR**

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場所: バイオリソースセンター1F 森脇和郎ホール

Harmonization of Health Monitoring Requirements for International Transfer of Rodents

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IDEXX RADIL

International transfer of rodents used in research occurs frequently and provides a valuable supply of unique animal models to researchers. As a component of the importation process, receiving institutions commonly require information on the health status of rodents being transferred. This information is valuable in assessing the health status of rodents being imported, the differences in health monitoring programs, agents for which testing is performed, the type of testing and the interpretation of the results between institutions complicates the importation process. The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) and the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science (FELASA) have formed a joint task force with a goal of developing a common health monitoring report format that will resolve challenges associated with these differences. Recognizing the important role of Asia in biomedical research and that many animals are transferred between Asia and Europe and Asia and North America, it will be critical to engage Asian laboratory animal scientists in future discussions regarding harmonization of health reports for international transfer of rodents.

Health monitoring and health reports: their importance for international exchange of laboratory rodents between research institutions - a European view

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Worldwide transfer of genetically modified rodents, at present primarily mice, has become increasingly important during the last decade. It is obvious that this leads to a high risk for transmission of unwanted agents. Therefore, receiving institutions usually request information on the health status of the animals to be shipped from the institution of origin. This information can be very variable and difficult to interpret as a standardised scheme for testing and reporting does not exist internationally. There are also different situations and traditions in different parts of the world to be considered before governmental authorities as well as the receiving institutions accept animals without delays. In Europe, health monitoring and reporting is strongly influenced by FELASA recommendations. The first recommendation on health monitoring of rodents issued by FELASA was published in 1994 for breeding colonies in which a format for health reporting was already suggested. This was followed by an update and recommendations for experimental colonies of rodents, and a revision dealing with health monitoring in breeding and experimental colonies was published in 2002. These recommendations have impact on health monitoring procedures and reporting especially in Europe. They include numbers of animals to be tested, testing frequency, and agents. Lists of agents for which testing is suggested are provided. As a consequence, there are some differences between health testing and reporting in Europe and other parts of the world. In general, health reporting seems to be more uniform in Europe as many institutions use a reporting scheme as recommended by FELASA. Testing and reporting usually includes viruses, bacterial agents, and parasites. Health reports frequently summarize results from repeated testing on few pages in contrast to test reports which provide raw data from testing laboratories. However, to evaluate the health status of incoming animals, additional information would be useful, e.g. on the testing program.

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