

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

POLICY ON ANIMAL ACQUISITION

GENERAL POLICY

All incoming animals purchased or imported into Massachusetts General Hospital must be acquired lawfully on to an approved IACUC protocol. MGH maintains strict health requirements for the animals entering the facilities to minimize the risk of pathogens that can adversely alter scientific objectives or pose a potential harm to people or other research animals.

DEFINITIONS

Animal orders: The Center for Comparative Medicine maintains a list of key approved animal vendors that provide current, complete and reliable health status for direct entry into animal facilities. These requests are termed “animal orders.”

Animal imports: All animals coming into any MGH animal facility from a non-approved vendor or collaborator (universities, hospitals, etc.) must have prior approval from a CCM Veterinarian before they can be received. These requests are termed “animal imports.”

Information on animal acquisition processes can be found on the [Animal Order & Transfer](#) page of the CCM website.

PROCUREMENT AND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

All animal procurement must be managed by CCM, with the exception of zebrafish housed in IACUC-approved satellite facilities. Vendors are reviewed and approved by the veterinary staff based on use, numbers and vendor program specifications. Participation in the CCM Approved Vendor Program is based on an appreciation and alignment of the vendor and MGH husbandry and veterinary practices such that further evaluation in a formal quarantine program is not warranted. All animals originate from lawful sources and their procurement, transportation and receipt must be compliant with federal, state and local animal welfare regulations. Animals received through the approved vendor route may go directly into the animal facility for acclimation.

Procurement requests from non-approved vendors (including universities, hospitals, etc.) must have prior approval from a CCM Veterinarian before they can be received. Isolation and quarantine for further evaluation of health may be required. Assessment and preventive medicine programs such as vaccinations, ecto- and endoparasite treatments and other disease control measures are incorporated according to current veterinary practices appropriate for each species. Overall, the health status of all animals used in the MGH animal care and use program is assessed based on species, strain/lines, source and experimental aim to protect general institutional animal and human health. Facility design, operational standard operating procedures and staff training is in place to ensure that this is sustainable. See [Animal Health & Treatment](#) on the CCM website.

v1.1, 15 December 2004

v1.2, 21 June 2017

v2.1, 15 September 2021