A. PURPOSE
The purpose of this SOP is to provide safe and proper quarantine procedures for new animals being introduced into the TTUHSC-EP LARC. Veterinary and animal care staff are directly involved with quarantined animals.

B. PROCEDURE
a. The quarantine room for all incoming rodents obtained from non-approved (i.e., universities) vendor sources will be physically isolated from standard rodent housing rooms within the LARC.
b. Animals may be housed in the Animal Biosafety Level (BSL) 2, or in the BSL1 area with appropriate signage and PPE.
   1. Quarantine per diem rates apply to all quarantine animals, in addition to testing requirements and fees.
c. A dedicated technician is assigned to the room and daily animal care in this room is performed after all other animal duties.
d. Rodents will be observed (health checked) at least once a day.
e. Report animals with clinical signs to LARC veterinary staff immediately.
f. If a dead animal is found, store the carcass in the refrigerator in the necropsy room and alert the veterinary staff immediately so a necropsy can be performed.
g. Caging going into the quarantine room will be standard housing.
h. Caging and refuse leaving the quarantine room will be treated as BSL2 caging is treated.
i. Follow BSL2 PPE requirements.
j. Follow BSL2 cage change SOP.
k. Weekend and holiday checks/care are performed after the BSL2, before the BSL3.
l. Quarantine time can be as short as 4 weeks, or can be as long as 12 weeks, depending on the agents found and how the veterinary staff has decided to eradicate pathogens.
m. Upon completion of quarantine, the investigator will be notified and the animals will be moved to the appropriate housing room.

C. QUARANTINE ANIMAL TESTING
1. After acclimation in quarantine, the animals will be tested via serology or PCR, depending on the panel selected by the LARC Veterinarian. These tests plus any additional tests deemed appropriate will be sent out to Charles River or IDEXX Laboratories.
2. A sticky swab will be used to test for fur mites, and sent to Charles River or IDEXX Laboratories for PCR testing.
3. Feces will be collected to test for pin worms, and sent to Charles River or IDEXX Laboratories for PCR testing.
4. The cost of quarantine tests will be billed back to the Investigator.

D. TREATMENT
1. Animals found positive for pinworms will be placed on a fenbendazole diet for 9 weeks continuously.
2. Animals found positive for fur mites will be placed on an ivermectin diet for 9 weeks.
3. Depending on the pathogen, foster dams may be used to transfer pups to within 24 hours of birth to prevent the transmission of pathogens such as norovirus or helicobacter.
4. The LARC Veterinarian will decide the treatment plan and length.

E. USE OF ANIMALS IN QUARANTINE
1. Animals may not be used by the Investigator during the quarantine period unless approved by the LARC Director/Veterinarian.
2. Research personnel will not have access to the quarantine room. Waivers may be granted by the LARC Director/Veterinarian.
3. Animals should not be bred during quarantine without the permission of the LARC Director/Veterinarian.
4. Animals that are to be used in acute, terminal studies may leave the quarantine facility with the permission of the LARC Director/Veterinarian.

F. REFERENCES
   a. Animal Health Check Procedures SOP.
   b. PPE in the Vivarium SOP.
   c. Animal Import and Export Forms.