

Animal Resources Centre

Newsletter, November, 2019

HOLIDAY MESSAGE

We are grateful for serving your research animal needs throughout 2019 and it has been a sincere pleasure serving each customer and learning more about each institution's unique research and research animal needs. This year, more than any previous, we were honored to offer confidential guidance on facility planning/design, health monitoring, and equipment selection to meet a wide variety of small and large animal research paradigms.

Each year we strive to provide higher quality animals and this year is no exception with the eradication of *Pneumocystis carinii* from our inbred rat colonies. Additionally, over the past year we have fielded several queries about the ARC's production colony Mouse Chapparravirus (MKPV) status; Production Colony testing was completed in March and all production mouse lines are negative and the agent has been added to annual health screen panel. We look forward to continuing those efforts in 2020 to meet your requirements and expectations.

Looking ahead, please take a moment before Easter to complete our annual Customer Survey, as your honest suggestions and feedback, including that directly from the CI's, have helped us shape our business to best fit your standards.

Thank you so much for choosing the ARC and do let us know if there is anything we can ever do to assist you further. Let me reiterate my previous statement about the ARC's ability to offer confidential guidance on facility planning/design, health monitoring, and equipment selection.

May you each have a safe and happy summer holiday season!

Patrick Sharp, CEO

PREPAY IS NOW AVAILABLE

The ARC is pleased to announce we now offer the ability to prepay future rodent purchases and services (e.g., Custom Strains breeding colonies). There have been increasing requests and we've made the necessary administrative changes to make this new payment option available.

Please contact the following individuals for more information:

Production Animal customers: Ms. Renae Linhart,
Customer Service Manager, rlinhart@arc.wa.gov.au

For Custom Strains customers: Ms. Kathryn Greca,
Custom Strains Manager, csmanger@arc.wa.gov.au



NEW



SRS OncoRat



NEW

The ARC recently received SRG OncoRat seedstock from Hera BioLabs. This immunocompromised rat model will be available in early 2020 to Australian researchers at a significant savings vs. importing them from the USA.

The SRG rat is a *scid* rat on the Sprague-Dawley background harboring a double knockout for the Rag2 and Il2rgamma genes. Additional SRG OncoRat details are available from [Hera BioLabs website](#).

PRICE INCREASE

The ARC price increase will take effect January 1, 2020 and be a 6% price increase with some animal lines seeing a slightly higher 7% increase (e.g., rats, *nude* mice, 129 mice).

HEALTH MONITORING

Corynebacterium bovis (*C. bovis*) is a Gram positive coryneform bacteria that originally gained attention for impacting nude and *scid* mice in the 1990s. Although the literature is sparse, the organism impacts the newer immunocompromised mice (e.g., NSG), too. As the organism is not a FELASA listed organism, the ARC tests annually. The organism has been a challenge globally and subject of many presentations at various scientific meetings this year.

The ARC has worked with various impacted institutions in Australia and overseas to assist in identifying, preventing, and managing impacted facilities and animals. If you have questions, please contact the ARC and we will confidentially work with you.

PNEUMOCYSTIS CARINII

The ARC has recently completed the rederivation of seven inbred rat lines and as the last testing (November, 2019) they remain free of the fungal agent, *Pneumocystis carinii* (*P. carinii*).

SENTINAL RATS

The ARC has received requests asking which of the *P. carinii*-free inbred rats would be the best options for sentinel rats. We would recommend the PVG or BN rats. The PVGs has may have a slight advantage over BN based on data from a single scientific publication. If you have further questions, please contact the ARC.

WEATHER

Unfortunately, as some customers are aware, the hot summer weather impacted some shipments in mid-November. While the ARC understands the research impacts, it is imperative that the animals arrive in the best possible condition.

The Animal Resources Centre performs a daily weather assessment at Perth and the other airports to determine if ground temperatures could seriously risk animal welfare. If at 9:00 AM Perth time, the predicted 9:00 PM Perth Airport temperature is greater than or equal to 29 °C, then interstate shipments will be dispatched the next suitable day. Likewise, if the predicted temperature at 9:00 AM at the destination or connecting airport is greater than or equal to 29 °C, then shipments will be postponed to a given airport or destination until the next suitable day.

Customers with high temperature concerns at their institution can request a delivery delay on the day of dispatch if the ARC is informed before 9.00 a.m. AWST. Kindly note that the ARC uses <http://weather.com> and <http://www.bom.gov.au/> to check weather forecasts.

DELIVERY REMINDER

There will be no deliveries December 20, 2019 through to January 6, 2020. Regular deliveries will resume January 7, 2020.

Except for public holidays, ARC office staff will be available to take your orders during business hours. If you reach voice mail during the holiday period, please leave a message and an ARC customer representative will return your call.

ARC Wishes you a
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



2020 HOLIDAY DELIVERIES

The ARC will *not* be dispatching animals for delivery the following day as follows:

- January 27, 2020
- March 2, 2020
- April 9, 2020
- April 13, 2020
- April 27, 2020
- June 1, 2020
- September 28, 2020
- Christmas/New Year's: TBA

FREE MOUSE SHIPPERS

Customers ordering 80 or more mice of the same strain, age range, weight range, and sex, to the same delivery point will receive free transport shippers. Conditions apply, please contact the ARC for more details

