

ARC COVID-19 Update Newsletter – August 2020

THANKS TO OUR CUSTOMERS

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout these challenging times.

It is of utmost importance for us to ensure your research needs are able to be met to the best of our abilities.

Everyone has been very accommodating to changes in orders or processes in order to find a way, and we thank you for that.

ORDERING

Animal orders continue to be accepted and assigned to the agreed delivery days for a safe delivery to the respective animal facilities.

Please note, that the airlines to the capital cities are restricted in their capacity; therefore orders will be accepted until flights are full and then assigned to flights the following week.

As always the Customer Service Team will be in contact should any variance arise with animal orders and delivery.

Interstate orders are being handled by Jetpets and Perth-area orders continue to be delivered on a Tuesday by ARC staff.

PRODUCTION COLONIES

All Production colonies are at full production and providing good stock levels.

We have good availability of aged C57BL/6J males and females up to two years old.

NSG supplies are steadily increasing, customers are advised to consider using NRG, if possible.

K18-hACE2 mice in small numbers are expected to be available by November. We anticipate a waiting list while our colony builds up so please place an order if you know you will definitely need to use these mice.

Small numbers of OncoRats are now in stock and available.

NEW MODEL AVAILABLE

K18-hACE2 mice



K18-hACE2 transgenic mice express the human ACE2, the receptor used by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) to gain cell entry.

The human keratin 18 (KRT18) promoter directs expression to epithelia, including airway epithelial cells where infections typically begin. This model of lethal infection with SARS-CoV mimics the human SARS disease.

Recent research indicates this line may be useful in studying antiviral therapies for the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pathogenesis and the disease outbreak COVID-19.

Please note, these mice should be handled in a manner consistent with CDC/ABSA/WHO guidelines for prevention of human infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Proper PPE and handling methods should be used at all times when working with these mice.

IMPORTS

Imports are being processed as normal and the ARC continues to receive both animals and cryopreserved reproductive material. There may be limitations on services and stock at the supplying facility so some extended delays are possible. Worldwide flight reductions have meant that some previous shipping routes and schedules have been altered and cost increases may occur. Some freight forwarding companies have increased their prices as a result of the shipping process changes. Animals may require housing at the ARC longer than usual as we wait for flights to forward the animals to the end users facility.

EXPORTS

Animal exports at this stage are on a case by case basis, and are very highly dependent on flight availabilities.

CUSTOM STRAINS

The Custom Strains department continues to support researchers by providing housing and maintenance of custom colonies. This can be an 'add on' to imported animals. Research animals are despatched as required which can minimise the length of housing at the receiving end.

ART/CRYO

Our Assisted Reproduction Technology Lab can assist with rederivation of mouse/rat colonies which can then be housed as a Custom Colony or despatched to your facility upon completion. Cryopreservation is also available for mouse colonies and is a good option to minimise colonies during periods of low usage, or to safeguard colonies from loss. Surgical alteration of mice/rats is also available.

NEW MODEL AVAILABLE

OncoRat SRG



Produced under contract with Hera Biolabs. The SRG rat™, is a SCID rat on the Sprague-Dawley background harboring a double knockout for the Rag2 and Il2rgamma genes. The SRG rat overcomes limitations of mouse models such as NSG mice. For example, the SRG rat enables tumor cell line xenograft models that were previously inefficient or not feasible in mouse models. While the long timeline required for the establishment of patient derived xenografts or PDX models in mice is often impractical; the SRG rat grows ~10x larger tumors enabling PDX establishment and efficacy studies in fewer passages and a shorter amount of time. In published data the SRG rat has demonstrated key advantages for use in preclinical trials. Superior xenograft take up rates, growth kinetics and larger sample sizes make for powerful tumor models in the SRG rat.