

Importation of Rodents to CUHK

You have expressed interest in importing rodents into animal facilities of CUHK.

All importations of all laboratory animals to CUHK must first seek the approval of the Director of LASEC.

You must first complete the online animal importation form. (The Password is available upon request)

<http://www.lasec.cuhk.edu.hk/importexport.html>

Here are some guidance notes to help you understand the importation procedure and related charges.

Importation

Only animals imported from major breeders such as Jacksons, Taconic, or Charles River etc., which have a higher health status than that of LASEC, may enter directly into our SPF breeding area.

All other animals from smaller breeders or university labs must first be screened for disease status before import. Based on this information, the Director will decide whether to quarantine these animals on arrival or whether to request that the animals be re-derived via cesarean section.

It is in the interest of the researcher to try and obtain animals directly from major breeders as valuable time and money can be saved by placing the animals directly into the SPF breeding floor.

Ideally, 5 breeding pairs should be imported so as to improve the chances of establishing a successful colony.

It can take between 4-9 months after arrival to establish a new colony before any animals can be issued for research.

Initial Importation costs

On average the importation freight and administration costs are approximately HK\$20,000 per importation so you should budget for up to this amount. An estimate of costs will be provided before importation begins.

LASEC will assign an agent that will handle all the importation paperwork and freight and will liaise directly with the exporting institution.

The cost of establishing a colony is high due to the need for extra caging and racks and manpower. A colony establishment fee of HK\$10,000 for individual mice strains and HK\$15,000 for individual rats will be charged.

Colony maintenance and issuing charges

Once the new colony has been established, the importing researcher will be required to pay a colony maintenance fee, on a monthly basis per strain/line for mice and rats.

(Updated colony maintenance fees are available at:

<http://www.lasec.cuhk.edu.hk/animals.html>)

This fee is designed to encourage researchers to discontinue the colony as soon as it is no longer needed, so as not to use up valuable resources, and to cover approximately 40% of the maintenance costs.

Once the animals have been bred to a level where the colony is stable (4-9 months after arrival) animals may be issued to the researcher. The cost of individual animals is based on how difficult the animals are to breed, and how many of the progeny will be useful for research, and should be discussed with the Director of LASEC and the breeding manager on an individual basis.

The cost of individual animals will also depend on whether the imported animals form an open colony, that is available to all CUHK researchers, or a closed colony, only open to the importing researcher. Unless a specific request for establishing a closed colony is received (e.g. due to a Material Transfer Agreement MTA), all imported colonies will be treated as open, and will be published on the LASEC website for other CUHK researcher's information. Please note that maintenance costs and issuing costs of closed colonies are significantly higher than open colonies. With open colonies, the importing researcher will still have priority for ordering their imported strain.

Please note that researchers will be required to arrange their own PCR testing for genotype. LASEC will provide the tissue sample, and results should be returned to LASEC within 3 weeks. Once animal genotypes are identified, LASEC will provide a list of available animals. Researchers MUST order animals that they require before they reach 12 weeks of age, and place them in holding, otherwise any animals not ordered before 12 weeks of age will be culled without further notice.

Once animals are issued they may be kept at LASEC facilities on the main campus or at the Prince of Wales Hospital where they will be subject to agistment fees to cover the cost of food and bedding, details of which are published on our website <http://www.lasec.cuhk.edu.hk>.

If you intend to import mice or rats to CUHK you should therefore budget for HK\$30,000- 35,000 for initial importation and establishment costs, then ongoing monthly maintenance fees <http://www.lasec.cuhk.edu.hk/animals.html> for mice and rats.

Should you require further information, please contact us.

<http://www.lasec.cuhk.edu.hk/contact-us.html>