

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
Diliman, Quezon City

February 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 02
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**SUBJECT : PROCEDURES FOR QUARANTINE AND CONDITIONING
OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATES FOR EXPORT**

Whereas, there is a consistent demand for non-human primates for biomedical purposes;

Whereas, good-quality monkeys command higher price in the foreign market hence can be tapped as potential source of additional dollar for the country.

Whereas, conditioning and quarantine are the two most important aspects of maintaining non-human primates for laboratory use;

Whereas, the monkeys and their tissues may be infective at any point in time ; hence, the handling of monkeys at any stage from capture to use poses a health hazard

NOW THEREFORE, in order to significantly reduce the risk of spread of infection from monkey to monkey and from monkeys to humans, the following quarantine and conditioning measures are promulgated for the guidance of all concerned.

I. Location and Design of Quarantine Facility

1. Designation of clean and dirty areas within the facility

Clean areas include: areas where monkeys have been held for at least 31 days, conditioning area for healthy animals for export, breeding facility, exit point of animals for export.

Dirty areas include: entry point and receiving area for new arrivals, isolation unit, hospital and laboratory.

2. At least one isolation unit where a sufficient number of animals can be caged individually should exist within the facility.
3. There should at least be 2 units where a sufficient number of new animals can be caged individually.
4. There should be additional separate units for holding monkeys in the different stages of quarantine.
5. Quarantine premises should be so designed as to have adequate ventilation, exclude rodents, birds and insects, have impervious floors and proper drainage and can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected periodically.

II. General Management Practices

1. Regarding Personnel in the Facility

- a. Entry of personnel should be restricted to authorized and trained personnel only.
- b. Prior to employment, personnel should undergo medical examination, particularly for tuberculosis. These medical examinations should be made annually. Blood samples should be taken periodically and the serum stored for future references.
- c. Management should ensure that the personnel are aware of the hazard of handling non-human primates and that all standard safety measures are enforced.
- d. Protective clothing including gloves, cap and surgical type mask should be made available to the animal handlers to be worn at all times when working within the animal holding areas. This clothing should be removed when leaving the facility and properly autoclaved or disinfected on site before laundering. The importance of such measure should be well-understood by the staff.
- e. Each personnel should be assigned specific areas of assignment and should be restricted to these areas for the entire work period. If this approach is not possible, the flow of work should be from clean to dirty area. Protective apparel should be specific per area and personnel should change clothing when entering different areas.
- f. Management should be notified without delay of injuries incurred while handling animals. Bleeding of the wound must be encouraged followed by liberal washing with soap and water; a protective first

aid dressing should be applied; and referred to a physician immediately.

- g. Management should keep health records of personnel in contact with primates. All personnel in the animal facility should be immunized against tetanus and other harmful agents whenever necessary. Cases of serious febrile illness (fever $>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ for >2 days) should be reported promptly to the Department of Health.

2. Cleaning and Decontamination of Facilities

- a. General thorough cleaning and disinfection of rooms should be done after vacating and before introduction of new animals. This should include floors, walls, ceiling, cages and its accessories and other equipment assigned to the room/area.
- b. Daily disinfection and cleaning of droppings (feces, urine, uneaten food, etc.) should be done using low pressure hose and floor brush.
- c. Individual waterers should be changed and washed on a daily basis. Used bottles should be placed in a dunk tank with 0.1% sodium hypochlorite and washed individually. Sipper tubes should also be changed and disinfected on a regular basis.
- d. Cleaning tools such as brooms, brushes, dust pans, etc. should be assigned per room/area and should not be moved from one area to another.
- e. Transport cages and vehicles (truck) should be decontaminated before and after every use.

3. Use of shared needles and other blood drawing instruments must be avoided at all times to prevent spread of blood-borne pathogens.

4. Extreme caution should be used when handling needles and syringes to avoid autoinoculation and the generation of aerosols during use and disposals. Used needles and syringes should be promptly placed in a puncture-resistant container and decontaminated, preferably by autoclaving, before discard or reuse.

5. Water Supply

Drinking water supply should be chlorinated at a dilution of 3-9 ppm.

6. Minimizing stress to animals

- a. It is preferable that animals in the quarantine and breeding facilities be individually caged to avoid fighting and infliction of injuries.

- b. Exposure of the animals to adverse environmental conditions such as extreme heat, poor ventilation, excessive draft and noise should be avoided.
- c. Care should be taken at all times during cleaning procedures to avoid wetting the animals.

7. Procedures for animals upon arrival in the facility

- a. Data for age, sex, weight, physical condition and source/origin should be recorded for all newly arrived animals.
- b. Individual identification should be done by tattooing. Tattooing needles should be disinfected between use by soaking in alcohol and flaming.
- c. Cage individually in units for new arrivals. Animals in different stages of quarantine should not be housed together.
- d. Administer prophylactic antibiotic, electrolytes, dewormer, treatment for ectoparasites, etc.
- e. Keep individual records of daily condition, all procedures done and other relevant remarks.

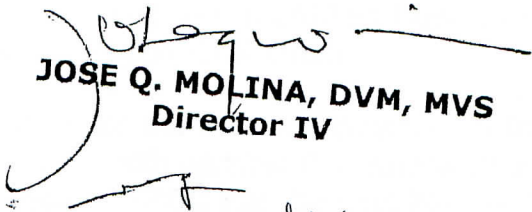
III. Procedures for Filovirus Testing of Nonhuman Primates During Quarantine

- 1. No mixing of animals from different quarantine units shall occur. If more recently acquired animals are introduced into the unit during quarantine period, the quarantine shall recommence from that date. The minimum quarantine period shall be 31 days.
- 2. Mortalities in a quarantine unit shall be monitored during the 31-day quarantine period.
- 3. Liver tissues from dead or dying monkeys in a quarantine unit should be collected by the exporters as soon as possible after death. The specimen shall be labeled and frozen. Samples should be submitted for testing a day after collection to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) for the presence of filovirus antigen using the antigen capture ELISA. If any specimen is positive, it is recommended that the quarantine cohort be depopulated.
- 4. If none of the deaths are filovirus antigen positive, the Department of Health shall send a recommendation to the appropriate office in the Department of Agriculture to issue a certificate to that effect. Animals may then be released from quarantine.

5. All specimens shall be collected, packed and transported to RITM by the personnel of the export facilities according to the procedures prescribed by RITM.

6. Facilities found not complying with this quarantine regulation shall be subject to penalties according to the rule and regulations of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

All concerned are hereby enjoined to act and be guided accordingly.


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Director IV
