

July, 2026

Cotton Rats Revised Health Monitoring Panels and Schedule

Historically, cotton rats were housed in open top caging along with commercial rats and mice. Health monitoring was performed indirectly utilizing both mouse and rat sentinels and running health testing panels associated with all three species. To optimize our overall footprint and enhance facility operations, we are relocating the cotton rat colony from Indy 202 to a updated space at 265 Greenfield in early fall 2026. Once they are housed in 265 Greenfield site, they will housed in IVC caging and have cage changes performed in Biological Safety Cabinets (BSC). The cotton rats are no longer housed with mice or rats.

The new facility requires an update to their health monitoring panels and will test cotton rats directly. We are removing species-specific mouse/rat agents and adding three susceptible viruses: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza A, and Influenza B. Full details on panels, organisms, and schedules are below.

As verification, traditional health reports utilizing indirect testing were compared to new direct testing health reports.

Other changes include:

- a. All samples will be collected directly from cotton rat cages. This includes fecal and NSP samples (oral swabs, fur swabs, dried blood spot and fecal).
- b. Cotton rat sentinel cages will be established (one per double sided IVC rack).
- c. [SiFT](#) (Sentinel Free Filter Testing) will be utilized on a quarterly basis in a separate cage.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

[Inotiv Veterinary Services](#)

Cotton Rat Health Monitoring Panels

Monthly	Quarterly	Semi-Annually
Influenza A/B	Hantaan	Ectromelia virus
Mouse parvovirus	Influenza A/B	Hantaan
Pneumonia virus of mice	Kilham rat virus	Influenza A/B
Rat parvovirus	Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus	K virus
RSV	Minute virus of mice	Kilham rat virus
Sendai Virus	Mouse hepatitis virus	Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus
Sialodacryoadenitis virus	Mouse parvovirus	Minute virus of mice
Toolan's H1 virus	Mouse polyoma virus	Mouse cytomegalovirus
Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group A	Pneumonia virus of mice	Mouse hepatitis virus
Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group G	Rat parvovirus	Mouse parvovirus
Bordetella bronchiseptica	Reovirus type 3 (Reo 3)	Mouse polyoma virus
Pneumocystis spp	RSV	Pneumonia virus of mice
Staphylococcus aureus	Sendai Virus	Rat Minute Virus
Ectoparasites	Sialodacryoadenitis virus	Rat parvovirus
Endoparasites	Toolan's H1 virus	Rat Theilovirus
Enteric protozoa	Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group A	Reovirus type 3 (Reo 3)
	Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group B	RSV
	Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group G	Sendai Virus
	Bordetella bronchiseptica	Sialodacryoadenitis virus
	Clostridium piliforme	Toolan's H1 virus
	Corynebacterium kutscheri	Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group A
	Filobacterium rodentium	Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group B
	Helicobacter spp.	Beta-haemolytic Streptococci Group G
	Klebsiella pneumoniae	Bordetella bronchiseptica
	Mycoplasma pulmonis	Clostridium piliforme
	Pneumocystis spp	Corynebacterium kutscheri
	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Filobacterium rodentium
	Rodentibacter heylii	Helicobacter spp.
	Rodentibacter pneumotropicus	Klebsiella pneumoniae
	Staphylococcus aureus	Mycoplasma pulmonis
	Streptobacillus moniliformis	Pasteurella multocida
	Streptococcus pneumoniae	Pneumocystis spp
	Ectoparasites	Pseudomonas aeruginosa
	Endoparasites	Rodentibacter heylii
	Enteric protozoa	Rodentibacter pneumotropicus
		Salmonella spp
		Staphylococcus aureus
		Streptobacillus moniliformis
		Streptococcus pneumoniae
		Dermatophytes
		Ectoparasites
		Endoparasites
		Enteric protozoa

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