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Research Models and Services

Rabbit health monitoring program

In order to ensure you receive the healthiest research models, Inotiv Research Products has implemented a robust health monitoring program for our rabbit colonies.

At least once per month, a minimum of four representative rabbits from each production building are sent alive to Charles River Laboratories, Wilmington, MA, for a complete health assessment, including:

- Physical examination
- Gross necropsy
- Examinations of fecal and cecal content
- Pelt examination
- Histopathology of key organs
- Cultures of nasal and oropharynx aspirates, bronchial washes and cecum contents
- Serologic and molecular diagnostic testing

Additionally, clinically ill rabbits (or tissues, swabs, and fecal samples from them) may also be submitted for complete diagnostic testing. Analysis by external institutional pathologists and veterinarians would also occur in the event of problematic findings.

The following testing is performed each month on rabbit specimens submitted to Charles River Laboratories, Wilmington, MA:

Bacteriology

Nasal aspirate and bronchial wash cultures are performed to detect the following respiratory organisms: *B. bronchiseptica, K. oxytoca, K. pneumoniae, P. multocida, P. pneumotropica, Pasteurella spp, Ps. aeruginosa, Pseudomonas spp, Staph. Aureus, Strep. pneumoniae, Beta Strep. spp-Group B, Beta Strep. spp-Group G, Beta Strep. spp* and other bacteria.

Cecum content cultures are performed to detect the presence of *Salmonella spp, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Pseudomonas spp* and other enteric bacteria.

Parasitology

Ectoparasite pelt examinations and ear examinations are performed to detect the presence of ectoparasites including *Cheyletiella parasitovorax, Psoroptes cuniculi, Listrophorus gibbus* and others.

Fecal flotation, as well as fecal centrifugation and bile aspiration, are performed to detect the presence of helminth and coccidial endoparasites including the following: P*assalurus ambiguous, Eimeria stiedae, Eimeria magna, Eimeria perforans, Eimeria media, Eimeria intestinalis, Eimeria flavescens, Eimeria piriformis, Chilomastix spp, Entamoeba spp, Giardia spp, Hexamastix spp, Trichomonads, Retortamonas spp* and others.

Virology

Animals are sent alive and receive a visual examination to detect the presence of viral diseases such as fibromas, papilloma, and myxomatosis.

Viral serology screening tests are performed for the following: PIV-1, PIV-2, Reovirus.

Molecular diagnostics

PCR of cecal tissue is performed to detect the presence of *Clostridium piliforme* whenever warranted by risk assessment or suspicious diagnostic findings.