

INSTITUT FÜR VERSUCHSTIERKUNDE

SOWIE

ZENTRALLABORATORIUM FÜR VERSUCHSTIERE

DIREKTOR: UNIVERSITÄTS-PROFESSOR DR. MED. RENÉ H. TOLBA

Uniklinik Aachen, Institut für Versuchstierkunde, D-52074 Aachen

To whom it may concern

D-52074 AACHEN, den
Telefax: (0241) 80-82462
Telefonzentrale: (0241) 800
Telefon Durchwahl:(0241) 8088606

24.01.2014

**Animal Welfare Policy, Medical Faculty, RWTH Aachen University, Institute for
Laboratory Animal Science**

The Institute for Laboratory Animal Science (ILAS) is part of the Medical Faculty and the University of Aachen, which supports the research activities of scientists from the Medical faculty, the University and collaborative partners from the Helmholtz Foundation studying animal models. Besides breeding and maintenance of transgenic and knockout mice and rats under strict specific-pathogen- free (SPF) conditions the ILAS also has capacity for several large animals as porcine, sheep and calves. The ILAS offers its users specially equipped laboratories for experimental use and operations.

The ILAS represents the central animal facility providing space and personal necessary to support the need for animal care and supports all research projects within collaborative research groups, Aachen START and other initiatives.

The ILAS is able to house up to 35.000 rodents. At present; 50 people are employed by ILAS to assure appropriate animal care in spf barriers, which are licensed according to GenTG up to the security level BSL / S3** and allow generation, breeding, analysis and maintenance of conventional, transgenic or knockout mice. Continuous surveillance by analyzing sentinel animals assures the SPF status of the institution according to the FELASA recommendations. In case of accidental infections, decontamination of separate rooms within barriers is possible by vaporized hydrogen peroxide for every single room and restricts spread of infectious microorganisms within the animal colonies. A cryopreservation service has been established to preserve important mouse line in case of infection or outbreak.

Animal Welfare Policy

The whole facility is licensed according to the German Animal Protection Law § 11 (Haltungsgerlaubnis für Versuchstiere). The facility is regularly (quarterly) visited by the Veterinarian Office of the Town of Aachen (Veterinäramt der Städteregion Aachen). All protocols are reviewed by a Governmental Animal Care and Use Committee at the Landesamt für Umwelt-, Natur- und Verbraucherschutz, Recklinghausen (LANUV).

The facility passes already two audits according to the AAALAS Standard in 2008. The whole facility has implanted a quality management system according DIN ISO 9001:2008; Certificate Number 01 100 120710; Tüv Rheinland CERT GmbH, valid to 08.02.2016.

ILAS makes use of animals from the basic standpoint that research on animals must be of considerable benefit to people. The sum of the advantages must be greater than that of the discomfort of the research animals. Likewise, we continuously strive, as an integral part of our research and development activities, to reduce, refine and replace the use of animals according to the 3 R principles of Russell & Burch, 1959. In order to reach a unified standard for the use of animals, the following principles must be adhered to through all stages within the RWTH Aachen University ILAS.

1. The use of animals must be carefully conducted in accordance with applicable laws, ethical standards according to the German Animal Protection Law, and the registration authorities' guidelines.
2. The use of animals must be conducted on a scientifically well documented basis.
3. RWTH Aachen University ILAS must take precautions to decrease the use of animals and ensure that the animals acquired are used only for their intended purpose.
4. Valid alternative methods must be used whenever possible. RWTH Aachen University ILAS must follow and support the international initiatives taken to develop alternative methods.
5. Research on animals must be carried out and evaluated in careful accordance with the authorities' and ILAS own precepts. In addition, ILAS must produce

an annual account of their use of animals to the authorities (Versuchstiermeldeverordnung).

6. Before animals are used for research, a treatment to minimise stress and pain must be commenced as soon as possible. The animals must also be under observation both during and after research.
7. A Laboratory Animal Science Specialist with expertise in the field of animal research must be attached to each location where ILAS uses animals.
8. Only purpose-bred animals are allowed to be used for research. In cases where an exception is necessary the authorities should be informed before execution of any Agreement. Permission to use non purpose-bred animals must be obtained by the University from the authorities as per the relevant local legislation.
9. Care and transport of animals must, as a minimum, live up to internationally accepted standards.
10. All personnel working with animals must possess a documented and appropriate education.
11. Genetically modified animals may only be used in research in instances where other methods are less appropriate.



R.H. Tolba, M.D., PhD,
Professor and Director
Institute for Laboratory Animal Science