ADA Forsyth®

Animal Program Policy

Title:	**Putative Oral Pathogens**
Date Created:	5/23/2008
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The ADA Forsyth IACUC considers oral bacterial species to present minimal risks of occupational exposure and infection. This is because these pathogens, although associated with disease, are also found in healthy individuals, so their presence per se does not constitute disease. The chance of developing disease, such as periodontitis, from exposure to these pathogens is therefore very low. In addition, the majority of these pathogens are anaerobic, and their survival outside of an optimal environment is likely to be poor. The IACUC considers the scientists at the ADA Forsyth Institute to be leaders in the field of oral pathogens, and their opinions contribute to this policy.

Therefore, the IACUC **may** allow these pathogens to be handled under BSL-1 conditions, although BSL-2 is also appropriate. IACUC should determine on a case-by-case basis based on the specific organism.

If infected animals are housed in conventional animal rooms the following precautions should be taken:

- Lab coats used for experimental work with oral pathogens should be discarded after each use
- Cage cards should be clearly labeled to indicate that the animals are infected with bacteria
- Infected cages must be the last on the rack to be changed, and gloves discarded immediately after handling the animals.
- Workers should follow safe work practices and engineering controls when handling these pathogens and inoculated animals.

Each protocol involving these pathogens will be evaluated by the IACUC to determine the occupational exposure risks in some cases. BSL-2 precautions may still be required. If the IACUC determines that infected animals can be housed conventionally, the protocol should include a statement that this policy will be followed.

Examples of Putative Oral Pathogens (other species can be found at HOMD):

- ***Treponema denticola***
- ***Porphyromonas gingivalis***
- ***Fusobacterium nucleatum***
- ***Parvimonas micra***
- ***Streptococcus intermedius***
- ***Prevotella intermedia***
- ***Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans***