



University of California, Davis
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Gut Microbiota (GM) Fecal Collection and Fecal Sample Shipping

A. Fecal Collection:

It is recommended to collect fecal samples in the early morning. Due to their nighttime feeding behavior, it will take less time to collect the fecal samples than if you try later in the day after day fasting. However, collections can be performed at any time. Please record date and time for each collected sample.

Fecal Collection Kit Supplies

1. 1.5ml cryo vials – partially pre-labeled
2. Sample picks contained in one or two of the vials (4/vial)
3. Return address label and document holder
4. **Please re-use the insulated Styrofoam and cardboard box you received these in.**

Collecting Samples

1. Label provided 1.5ml vials legibly using a lab safe marker with Mouse ID (ID used on mouse shipment inventory sheet and/or in colony); vials are pre-labeled with stock number and strain name.
2. Wearing plastic gloves, place a single mouse in a clean cage with no bedding.
3. Allow mouse to defecate.
4. Once mouse has defecated 2-3 fecal pellets (~10 min), remove mouse from collection cage.
5. Using one sample pick per mouse, collect at least two fresh fecal pellets with pick, and place fecal pellets in a vial labeled for that mouse.
6. Place vial with fecal sample on ice/dry ice until all samples have been collected and are ready for shipping.
7. Repeat steps 2 to 6 above to collect fecal sample from remaining mice housed in separate cages.

Note: **Change gloves and collection cages between animals.** It is ok to reuse collection cages for mice housed within the same cage.

8. Record date and time of fecal collections
9. Once all samples are collected, remove vials from ice, place in labeled baggie (provided), and store samples at -80 °C or until ready for shipping.

B. Fecal Sample Shipping:

We recommend shipping via FedEx overnight

1. Fill provided Styrofoam shipping container with dry ice.
2. Place bagged samples into the Styrofoam shipping box containing dry ice, replace lid, place Styrofoam box into the provided cardboard box.

3. Fill in the information in the tables on next page, scan and/or save an electronic copy to send by email to importexport@ucdavis.edu, and insert a copy into the document holder affixed to the Styrofoam lid.
4. Apply provided labels as directed on shipping instructions, and ship to the Mouse Biology Program using the provided FedEx return label.



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Please provide the following information with the samples:

Researcher Name and email		
Contact Name and email		

Housing Conditions

Rack type and manufacturer	
Bedding	
Diet	
Type of water	
Light cycle	
Humidity	
Temperature	
Other mice in room (Yes/No)	
Are mice housed in large room with multiple IVC racks or small cubicle?	
Other husbandry factors that you think may contribute to gut microbiota changes?	

Manifest of Samples being provided:

Strain or Stock #	Mouse ID	Collection Date/time

Thank you for providing these samples and associated information!