



**MOUSE BIOLOGY PROGRAM (MBP)**

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Dear Colleagues,

We would like to notify you of recent positive pathogen results from animals that were housed in our M3 Barrier Facility. Three female dams that were submitted for necropsy as part of our standard screening procedures were identified by PCR to be positive for *Helicobacter typhlonius* by the UC Davis Comparative Pathology Laboratory (CPL). Idexx confirmed *H typhlonius* in two of the samples, but the third was inconclusive. Fecal samples from the pups of all three dams submitted on two separate occasions 10 days apart, dam cagemates, and room sentinels all tested negative. The sentinels in the room they originated from as well as the room they were housed in following embryo transfer had negative pathology reports.

*Helicobacter typhlonius* can be found not only in rodents, but also in humans and other animal species. Its primary route of transmission is fecal-oral; however, *Helicobacter* species have also been shown to be transmitted in saliva. Given the highly transmissible nature of *Helicobacter*, the fact that it was not identified in any of the pups, cagemates or sentinels, suggested a possible laboratory error and/or contamination at the time of sample collection. We thus submitted fecal samples from approximately 30% of our current room census for PCR evaluation and all samples were negative. Given these results, we have concluded that it is highly likely these animals were passively contaminated with *Helicobacter* outside of the M3 vivarium.

In the future, the CPL will bank tissues from animal submitted from the M3 vivarium at the time of necropsy so they are available for confirmation testing if needed. Additionally, we will begin collecting and banking feces for confirmation testing from every maternity female in the M3 vivarium before they are transported to pathology.

We appreciate your understanding as we deal with this situation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or our customer service team.

Best Regards,

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