



Microbiological Status of Animals

Definition of terms describing microbiological status

1. Axenic (germfree): hysterectomy-derived rodents which are free of all adventitious organisms, and have the cleanest health status for laboratory animals. Colonies of Axenic animals are produced in multiple flexible-film isolators that are maintained using strict germ-free techniques. Detection of any microorganism in germ-free isolators is cause for immediate tear-down of the isolator.
2. Gnotobiotic: hysterectomy, derived rodents that have been reared and maintained in an isolator by germ free techniques, and that has one or more associated nonpathogenic agents, all of which are known.
3. Defined Flora (DF): DF animals are maintained in flexible-film isolators using strict gnotobiotic techniques. These animals are intentionally exposed to only eight anaerobic bacterias, (the Altered Schaedler Flora). The DF status is verified weekly.
4. Specific Pathogen Free (barrier maintained): an animal free of a specified list of pathogens.
5. Clean Conventional: animals housed in a low-security barrier and demonstrated to be free of major pathogens.
6. Conventional: animals whose microbial burden is not known and not controlled