

Summary

VAF/Elite® mice are housed in isolators or individually ventilated cages (IVC) to limit the exposure to opportunistic bacteria, as some of these organisms could pose unwanted variables in research studies. This document reviews the health surveillance program of Charles River's VAF/Elite® mice.



RESEARCH MODELS AND SERVICES NA

Routine Health Monitoring of VAF/Elite® Animals

Rodents with the VAF/Elite® health profile are defined by the confirmed absence of specific bacterial species: *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pasteurella pneumotropica*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and beta-hemolytic *Streptococcus*, in addition to those agents excluded from the VAF/Plus® profile. VAF/Elite® rodents are maintained in a high-level biosecurity environment to limit exposure to these specific opportunistic bacteria commonly found in or on humans. The VAF/Elite® profile eliminates common opportunistic bacteria that could pose unwanted variables in certain research studies.

Every 4 to 6 weeks, samples are collected and tested to ensure the VAF/Elite® rodents maintain the bacterial profile consistent with the VAF/Elite® health profile. Quarterly, the colony is screened for prevalent viruses. Rodents are submitted annually for comprehensive health monitoring

including full serology assessment, bacteriology of the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts, PCR testing, complete parasitology of the pelt and GI tract, and a complete necropsy with histopathology of all lesions.

Health monitoring reports are provided by Charles River on our website (www.criver.com/products-services/research-models-services/health-reports) and are continuously updated as new results become available. These documents describe the status of the composite of all VAF/Elite® mice in the colony located on a given site.

We are committed to providing our customers with the information that they require for thoughtful animal health management decisions. Should you require any additional information or have a specific request, please contact our Inbound Customer Support and Technical Assistance Department at 1.877.CRIVER1 (1.877.274.8371) or askcharlesriver@crl.com.

Summary of Testing Methods and Frequency

Methodology	Agent	Frequency
Microbiology or PCR	Excluded Bacteria	Every 4-6 weeks
Serology or PCR	Viruses	Quarterly
Animal HM	Bacteria, Viruses, Parasites	Annual

