

Laboratory Animal Research Center

Animal Center

動物センター

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The Laboratory Animal Research Center (LARC) was founded in 1965 as the first modern animal facility in Japan. Currently about 24,257 mice are housed for research of IMSUT, and strictly maintained in the SPF condition. The Animal Center building of LARC was improved in 1998 to perform genome engineering in animals, to make infectious experiments (P2A, P3A), and to house bigger animals, such as rats and rabbits. Techniques of mouse embryo manipulation and generating genetically modified mice, including genome editing technologies, have been introduced into the LARC.

Animal Husbandry and Housing

The Animal Center building is a centralized facility designed, constructed and maintained to meet regulatory standards required for the operation of research animal facilities. We provide barrier housing rooms to support the production and use of genetically-engineered mice, biohazardous experiments area and equipment room which has X-ray Irradiator, CT and IVIS imaging system. In 2025, 439 researchers from 35 laboratories are engaged in this facility with about 24,257 mice, 807 rats and 190 hamsters.

Techniques of mouse embryo manipulation (Microbiological cleaning and cryopreservation)

Our Barrier housing rooms are strictly maintained in the SPF condition; therefore, we provide IVF mouse derivation service for all mice shipped to LARC from other institutions or non-approved vendors to keep mice in SPF grade. We make frozen sperm and embryo for reducing number of using animals and laboratory space. In addition, it is useful for making back up of the strains. In 2025, 98 strains of embryos and 39 strains of sperm were stored, and 62 tubes of frozen embryo were used for rederivation.