

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Division of Intramural Research

Research Animal Management Branch (RAMB)

The operations of the Research Animal Management Branch (RAMB) are directed to provide animal research support services to NICHD investigators and to represent the interests of the NICHD on all aspects of animal research.

RAMB Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the RAMB include:

- Direction of NICHD animal disease control programs. Provision of a clinical veterinary medicine program, including clinical diagnosis, therapy, and close coordination with the VRP Diagnostics and Research Services Branch. Provision of a comprehensive preventive medicine program to prevent disease in laboratory animals and to prevent the spread of disease from animals to humans (zoonoses).
- Budget and CAN management; all NICHD animal holding costs are included under the RAMB budget.
- Centralized animal ordering for the NICHD and formulation of policies and standards for animal ordering and receipt.
- Administrative support to the [NICHD Animal Care and Use Committee](#).
- Operation of the Building 6B Shared Animal Facility, the NIHAC Shared Animal Facility, Suite 6C127 of the ACRF Animal Facility, the Building 6 Shared Zebrafish Facility and satellite aquatic animal holding areas in Buildings 6B, 32T-II, and 14G.
- Representation of the NICHD on User Committees for all NIH animal facilities that maintain NICHD animals.
- Representation of the NICHD Animal Care and Use Program to the [NIH Office of Animal Care and Use \(OACU\)](#). Coordination of the NICHD response to OACU inquiries or requests for reports.
- Evaluation of animal facilities and holding areas for design, animal housing systems, environmental control, and general operation so as to minimize research complications due to environmental variation or animal disease.
- Implementation of procedures to assure compliance with federal policy, regulations, and legislation governing the ethical use of animals in biomedical research.
- Development and implementation of procedures to facilitate continued NIH accreditation from the [Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International \(AAALAC\)](#).

The RAMB provides consultation and valuable assistance to NICHD investigators.

Investigators must meet certain criteria prior to beginning any project using research animals at the NIH. These include completion of an approved training course, registration with the Animal Exposure Program, obtaining approval from the NICHD Animal Care and Use Committee for proposed studies, animal procurement, and instruction in special animal facility operating procedures. Information on these requirements, as well as other useful information, is available below:

- [Training Courses](#)
- [Animal Exposure Program \(AEP\)](#)
- [NICHD Animal Care and Use Committee \(ACUC\)](#)
- [Animal Research Advisory Committee \(ARAC\) guidelines](#)
- [NIH Policy Manuals regulating the use of animals in research](#)
- [Guidelines for Procurement and Importation of Research Animals](#)
- [Special Animal Facility Operating Procedures](#)
- [NICHD Animal Holding Space](#)
- [Routine and Emergency Veterinary Care](#)
- [Outside Inquiries Into Your Animal Research](#)
- [Useful forms](#)
- [Building 6B Shared Animal Facility](#)

NICHD Animal Holding Space

The NIH has facilities to accommodate virtually any animal species required in biomedical research.

Most of the **rodent** facilities at the NIH have restrictions on which animal pathogens are acceptable in animals to be imported and maintained. The animal facilities in Buildings 6B, 49, and 10A have been designated "disease free." Although animals that are removed from these three facilities may not be returned; animals may be removed for use in approved locations.

Animal procedure rooms are available in most animal facilities. Building 6B has four general purpose procedure rooms and a transgenics laboratory. Building 10A has one procedure room dedicated for NICHD use; general purpose shared procedure rooms are also available. The Building 10/6C127 facility has one procedure room. Building 49 has a suite of NICHD procedure rooms as well as general purpose procedure rooms.

Light-tight cubicles, equipped with red lighting to facilitate studies requiring modified light/dark cycles, are available in Building 49.

All **animal holding costs** are paid from the Research Animal Management Branch (RAMB) budget (approximately \$6 million/year). Animals are purchased through the Laboratory and Branch budgets. Charges for animal holding space in the Building 6B Shared Animal Facility, the Building 10A Central Animal Facility, the Building 49 Shared Animal Facility, and the NIHAC Shared Animal Facility are assessed through Intraagency Agreements, regardless of the NICHD animal population density. Therefore, attempts will be made to fill the NICHD space allotments in these facilities before making use of facilities where a per diem is charged (e.g., Buildings 14 and 103).

Animal holding space currently in use by the NICHD is summarized below:

Animal Facility	Species	NICHD Holding Space	Lead Institute
Building 6B	Mice <i>Xenopus</i> Zebrafish	4670 cages variable 4,182 tanks	NICHD
Building 10A	Mice, Rats	1440 cages	VRP, ORS
Building 10/6C127	Mice, Rats <i>Xenopus</i>	882 cages, 100 cages tanks	NICHD
Building 49	Mice, Rats	1448 cages 60cages	NEI
Building 35 PNRC	Mice, Rats	1400 cages 101 cages	NINDS
Building 14F	Mice	780 cages	VRP, ORS
NIHAC	Nonhuman primates: Rhesus Monkey Cebus monkey	Approximately 500 Buildings 110A, 112, and seasonal habitats.	NICHD
Building 103	Nonhuman primates	Variable	VRP, ORS
Building 6 Zebrafish Facility	Zebrafish	9822 tanks (2 liter/tank)	NICHD
Building 6B/Room 4B406	Zebrafish	374 tanks	NICHD
Building 14G/Room 114	Zebrafish	6,553 tanks	NICHD
Building 32T-II	<i>Xenopus</i>	10 tanks	NICHD

<https://science.nichd.nih.gov/confluence/display/ramb/Home>