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Research Models and Services

Outbred Guinea Pigs

Dunkin Hartley

Origin

Dunkin Hartley stock. Originally from the SPF unit at the Agricultural Research Centre, Compton in 1976. Closed colony since.

HsdDhl:DH

Stock was obtained from Hall in 2006 due to closing down of this facility.

Characteristics

A good compact animal. Together with primates, the guinea pig is the only laboratory animal with a dietary vitamin C requirement. Guinea pigs are a very good source of serum complement. They are also used in otological research, as the hearing range and structures of the ear are similar to those of humans. Guinea pigs have been widely used in studies of immunology, particular in studies of delayed hypersensitivity in which its response resembles that of man (Gell and Benacerraf, 1961). Other areas of immunology are in studies of anaphylactic shock (Stone *et al*, 1964), and allergic encephalomyelitis (Takino *et al*, 1971). Hematological parameters have been described by Williams and Festing (1971).

Genetics

Coat colour genes - Ce : albino.

Other genes are variable (outbred stock).

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