

First Litter of Mice Re-derived from Frozen 8-Cell Embryos Born into New Facility at ORNL

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- **Litter of 9 mouse pups born from frozen embryos at Russell Laboratory for Comparative and Functional Genomics on 4/13/04**
- **First strain re-derived is 22a, used for mating with mutant stocks; second litter was mutant stock “koala”**
- **Implanting embryos 3 times a week for foreseeable future to reach a pathogen-free population of 6,000 by end of FY 2004**



- First successful litter of mice re-derived from frozen eight-cell embryos born at ORNL's William L. and Liane B. Russell Laboratory for Comparative and Functional Genomics.

First litter of mice born from frozen eight-cell embryos at ORNL's William L. and Liane B. Russell Laboratory for Comparative and Functional Genomics. Nine mouse pups were born on Saturday, March 13, 2004, at ORNL's William L. and Liane B. Russell Laboratory for Comparative and Functional Genomics. This is the first litter to be re-derived from eight-cell frozen embryos, and marks the beginning of rebuilding a pathogen-free mouse colony in the new Russell Lab. The first mouse strain to be re-derived is known as 22a, a common stock that is used as a mating partner for mutant stocks. The second embryo-derived litter was a mutant strain known as "koala" because its stubby ears resemble those of a koala bear.

The mouse population was allowed to dwindle to zero last year as the biologists in the Life Sciences Division prepared to move their research quarters from the antiquated facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex to their new home on the west campus of ORNL. The old Mouse House at Y-12 was infested with parasites that reduced the quality of research and threatened the facility's accreditation for animal care. Elaborate measures have been taken to ensure the cleanliness of the new Russell Lab and allow high-quality research. ORNL biologists will be implanting female mice with embryos about three times a week for the foreseeable future to rebuild the population. This will result in seven to ten litters a week. ORNL expects the Russell Lab mouse population to reach about 6,000 by the end of FY 2004.

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