

055

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIFIC PATHOGEN FREE COLONY OF RHESUS MONKEYS AT TULANE NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER

M.S. Ratterree

Tulane National Primate Research Center, Covington, Louisiana, USA.

Presenter's Email: ratt@tulane.edu

The request for Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) nonhuman primates in the research community has increased. The reasons include the need for animals that are free of diseases that may confound research and the zoonotic potential associated with certain infectious agents. In 2001 a SPF breeding colony of rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) was established at Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC), one of eight regional primate centers located in the United States and funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The colony started with 512 animals and has a current census of 2844 monkeys that consists of both Indian and Chinese origin colonies. The history, source of animals, infectious agents of interest, testing algorithms, housing strategies, morbidity and specific uses will be described.

Keywords: SPF, rhesus, breeding, colony