

Technology Offer

Geno-Tip

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TO 01-00329

The Challenge

Transgenic animals play an important role in almost every area of scientific research. Various procedures have to be performed for identification and genetic determination purposes. These procedures include ear-tagging or ear-punching the mice or rats for identification and taking samples for tail-tip DNA for PCR assays. Similar procedures apply for other lab animals like zebra fish.

Two major problems are associated with these procedures: Numerous handling steps lead to stress in the often valuable animals and to a high expenditure of labour for the scientists and technicians working with the animals. Also and often more importantly taking samples in the conventional way using forceps and scissors or scalpels leads to contamination of the individual samples. The subsequent examination of the transgenic animals via PCR results in numerous "false positives".

Until today all traditional methods for identification purposes and for obtaining tissue samples of all kinds of laboratory animals still remain unsatisfactory.

The Technology



The invention discloses a novel single-serving device that allows to gain tissue samples and to identify the transgenic animals in one step.

There is no possibility of contamination with samples already taken. This way of creating false positive PCR results is excluded.

Commercial Opportunity

Working with laboratory animals is indispensable in modern science. Therefore animal handling devices and disposable labware are major segments in the market of laboratory equipment.

Advantages of the novel device are:

- easy to use
- time saving procedure through reduction of handling steps
- no false positive PCR results caused by contamination during taking of tissue samples
- stress reduction and thus improved animal health and survival rates

Patent situation

A German and a PCT/EP04/002457 application (confidential) are pending.

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