

Standard Mouse Polyclonal Antibody Protocol for Protein and Peptide Antigens

Subject	VAF Balb/c Female Mouse
Adjuvant	Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA) initially, followed by Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (IFA) for all subsequent injections.
Immunogen	Typically proteins and conjugated peptides. Typically 10 to 50 µg immunogen is used for each immunization (however amounts may vary do to antigen availability).
Procedure	The immunogen is diluted to 0.125 ml with sterile saline and combined with 0.125 ml of the appropriate adjuvant. The antigen and adjuvant are mixed thoroughly to form a stable emulsion that is injected intraperitoneally into the mouse. This provides enhanced immune response from the sustained presentation of the immunogen. PRF&L has established immunization SOPs and Guidelines to be followed.
Bleeds	Blood is collected from the retro-orbital sinus by a microhematocrit tube into heparin. The plasma is decanted and clarified by centrifugation at 2,500 RPM for 15 minutes. PRF&L has established blood collection and laboratory SOPs and Guidelines to be followed.
Schedule	<p>Day 0 Preimmune Bleed yields about 0.2 ml of plasma. Immunize with 25 -- 50 µg/mouse antigen in CFA interperitoneally.</p> <p>Day 14 Immunize with 10 -- 25 µg/mouse antigen in IFA interperitoneally.</p> <p>Day 28 Immunize with 10 -- 25 µg/mouse antigen in IFA interperitoneally.</p> <p>Day 42 Bleed (about 0.2 ml of plasma)</p> <p>Day 44 Ship preimmune and bleed plasma to project sponsor for testing or PRF&L can perform ELISAs at the sponsor's request</p> <p>Day 56 Immunize with 10 -- 25 µg/mouse antigen in IFA interperitoneally.</p> <p>Day 70 Bleed (about 0.2 ml of plasma), continuing every 28 days</p> <p>Day 72 Ship bleed plasma to project sponsor for testing or PRF&L can perform ELISAs at the sponsor's request. The project can be discussed with PRF&L Staff and alterations to the schedule may be implemented at this point.</p> <p>Day 84 Immunize with 10 -- 25 µg/mouse antigen in IFA interperitoneally and continuing every 28 days.</p>
Continuing	The mouse is maintained on a four-week cycle of immunizations and bleeds. The results of testing will determine whether the protocol should be continued, modified, or terminated. Extra weekly production bleeds and immunizations can be performed upon sponsor's request providing they fall within PRF&L Guidelines and SOPs.
Endpoint	The endpoint of the project is determined by the feedback received from the sponsor. He/she may request to terminate the project with serum (by exsanguination) or without serum (humanely euthanize or discard). PRF&L reserves the right to terminate a mouse prematurely that shows signs of morbidity.