Animal care and use statement

The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain or discomfort to the animals. The animals were acclimatized to laboratory conditions (23°C, 12h light/dark, 60% humidity, *ad libitum*access to food and water) for one week prior to experimentation. During all experiments rats were maintained in individually ventilated cages under specific pathogen-free conditions. All animals were euthanized by 10% chloral hydrate overdose (intraperitoneal injection, 5mL/kg body weight).

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