

Animal care and use statement: The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain or discomfort to the animals. The mouse colonies were maintained in a controlled environment behind a sterile barrier at the Animal Care facility at the University of Nebraska with constant temperature, humidity and 12:12-h light-dark cycle. Free access to food and water was provided. At the end of experiments, mice were anesthetized with a Ketamine (100 mg/kg b.w.) and Xylazine (10 mg/kg b.w.) solution and sacrificed to harvest organs and cardiac blood.