and its subsequent amplification was repeated nine times. The product from the tenth round was diluted 1:10 with PBS and inoculated intracerebrally (20 µl per mouse) into tga20 mice (Fischer *et al.*, 1996) that overexpress mouse PrP^{C}. Infectivity of the PMCA product from the tenth round of amplification of a PrP^{Sc}-positive WBC sample from macaque no. 7 obtained at dissection 1127 days p.i. was also examined. The PMCA product from the tenth round of amplification of no-seed sample was inoculated as negative control. In addition to the PMCA products, 10% brain homogenate of a c-BSE infected cow was also inoculated into tga20 mice to compare infectivity. The bioassay experiments were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of the National Institute of Animal Health (approval ID: 09-44) and were conducted in accordance with the guidelines for animal transmissible spongiform encephalopathy experiments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

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