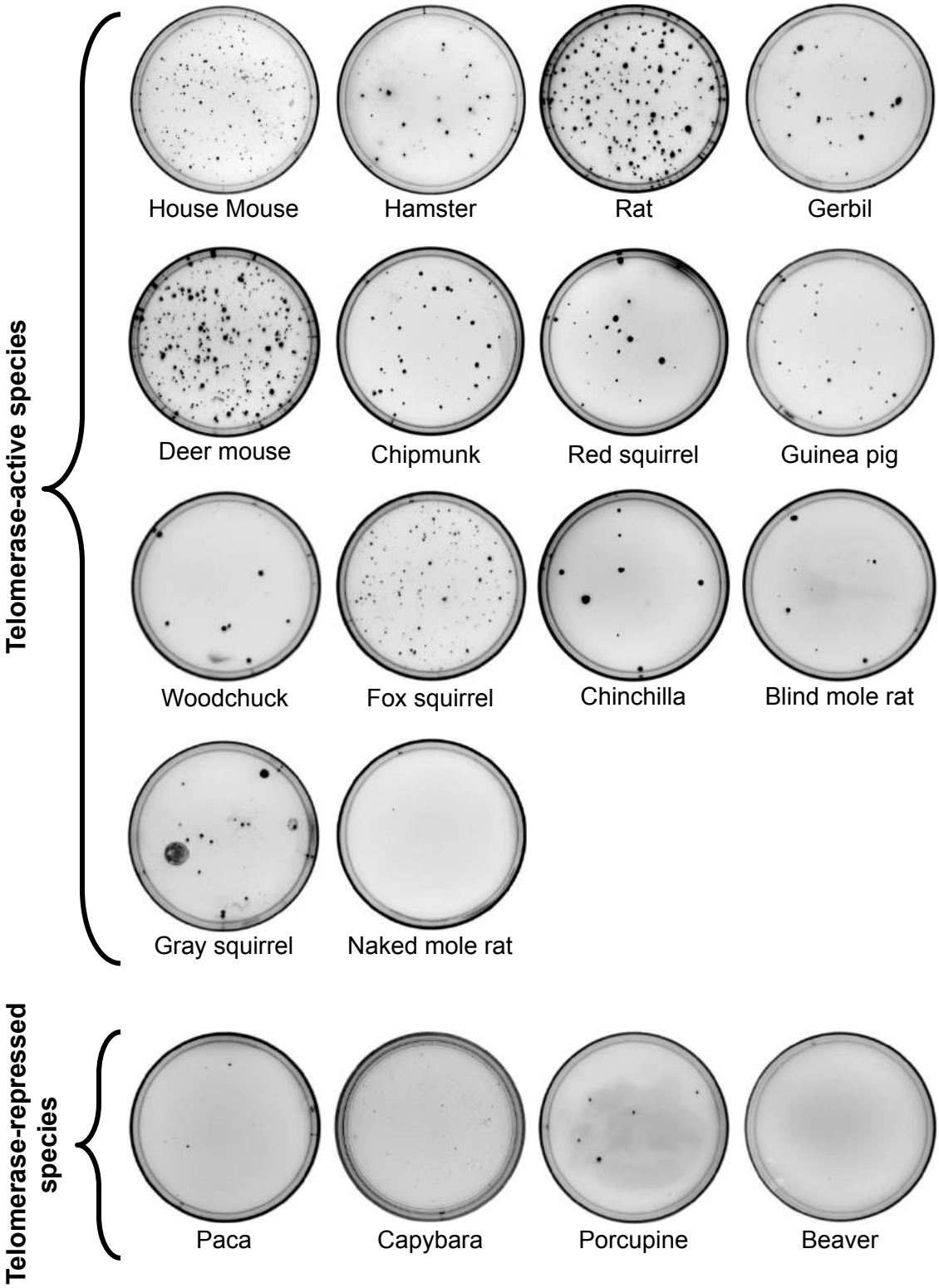

Figure S1. LT and *Ras*V12-induced anchorage-independent growth in 18 rodent species. Skin fibroblasts from 18 rodent species were transfected with SV40 large T (LT) and H-*Ras* V12 expressing plasmids together with a GFP plasmid. The anchorage-independent growth was measured in soft agar plates. Images of the soft agar plates were taken after being stained with ethidium bromide. Representative images are shown. The quantification of the colonies for telomerase-positive species is shown in Figure 4.

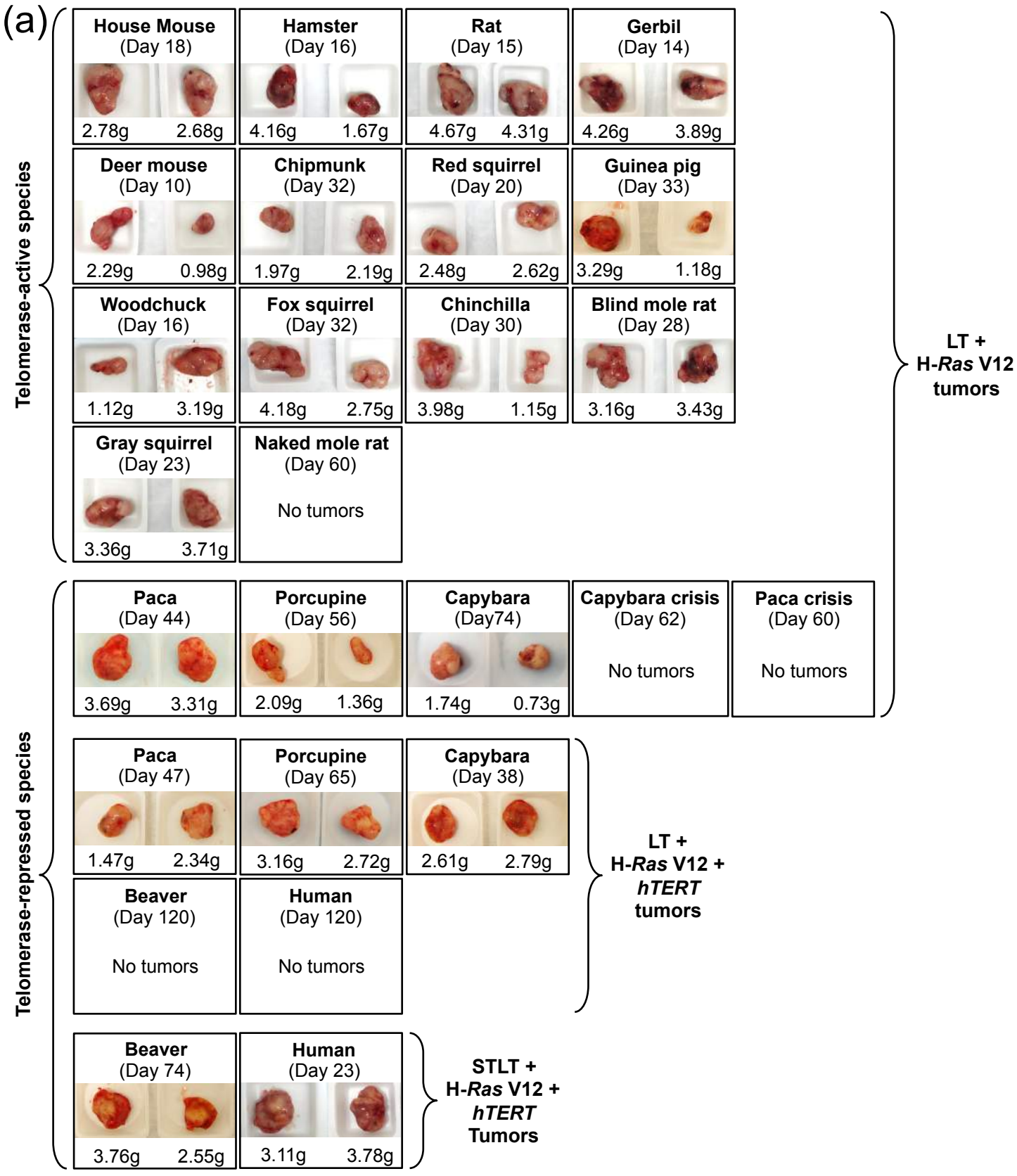

Figure S2. Tumorigenicity of rodent cells transformed by different combinations of oncogenes. (a) Skin fibroblasts stably expressing the indicated oncogenes were injected subcutaneously into the NIH-III immune-deficient mice. Tumours were excised and analysed when reaching endpoints of either 6 weeks post injection, or the tumor size exceeding 20 mm in the longest dimension, or the mouse being distressed. (*Continued*)

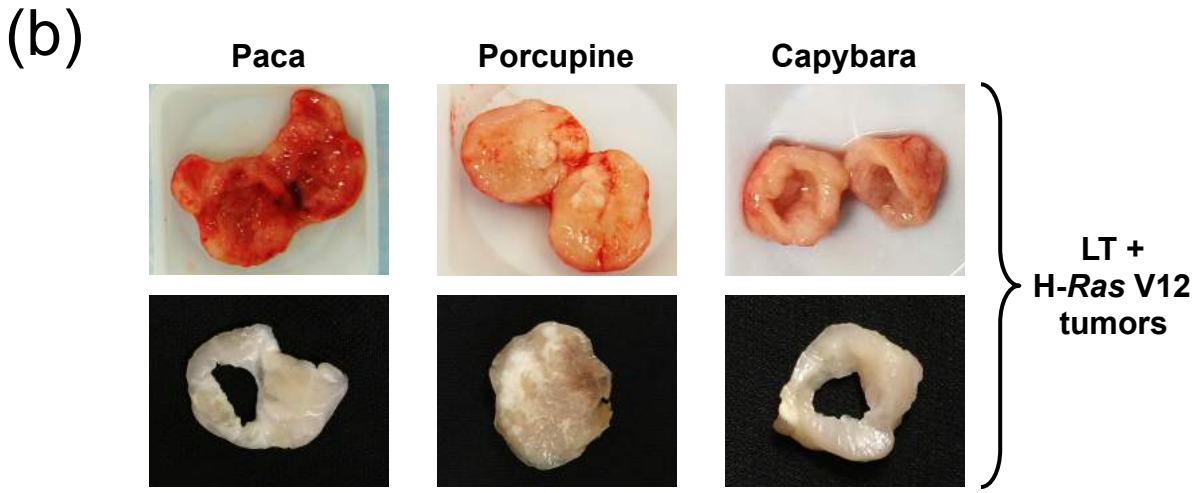

Figure S2 (*Continued*)**. Tumorigenicity of rodent cells transformed by different combinations of oncogenes.** (b) Tumors formed by paca and capybara cells are hollow. Tumors formed by porcupine cells, as well as cells of other species (not shown), are solid.

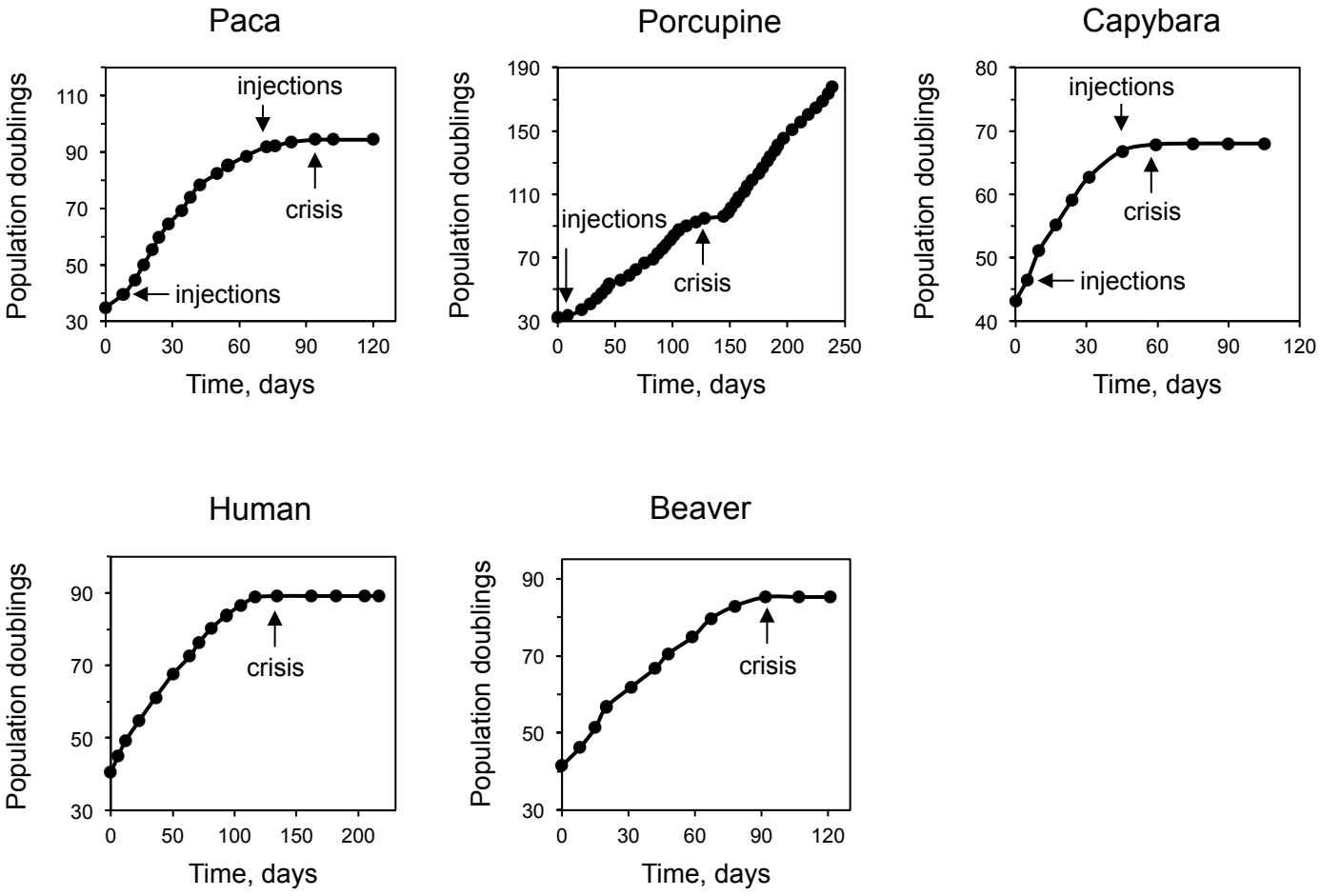

Figure S3. Coexpression of LT and H-*Ras* V12 induces crisis in telomerase negative large-bodied species. Paca, porcupine, capybara, human and beaver cells stably expressing wild-type LT and H-*Ras* V12 were passaged and massive cell death (crisis) was observed between PD70 and PD90, indicated by an arrow. Upon entering crisis, the cells were passaged until almost all cells died. Porcupine cells entered crisis, but the remaining cells resumed fast proliferation after 3-4 passages.

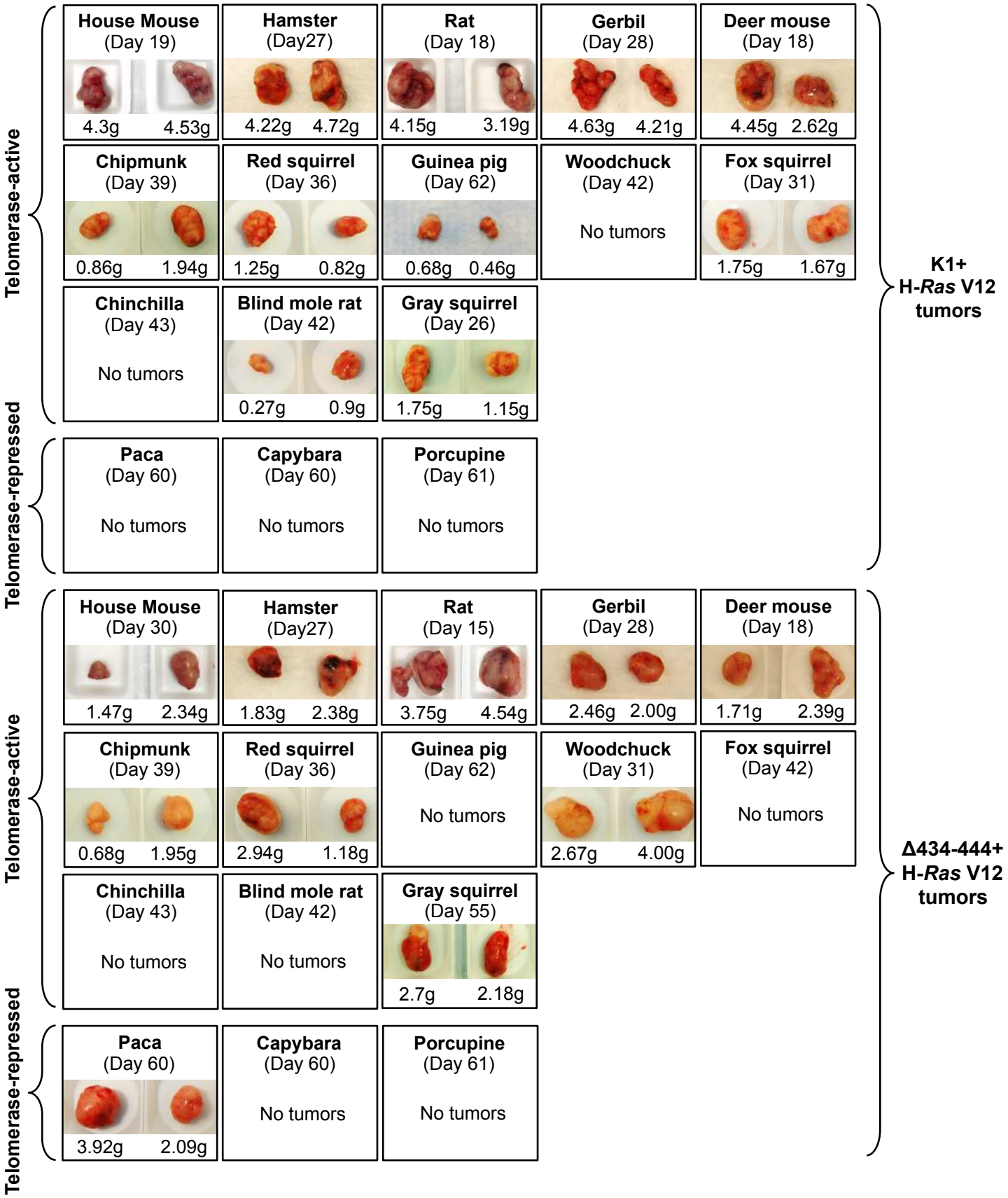

Figure S4. Tumorigenicity of rodent cells transformed by oncogenic H-*Ras*V12 and LT mutants. Skin fibroblasts stably expressing H-*Ras*V12 and LTK1, or H-*Ras*V12 and LTΔ434-444 were injected subcutaneously into the NIH-III immune-deficient mice. Tumours were excised and analysed when reaching endpoints of either 6 weeks post injection, or the tumor size exceeding 20 mm in the longest dimension, or the mouse being distressed.