



TITLE: Animal Transport

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that any transportation of animals outside of animal facilities is conducted in an appropriate manner, safe for the animals and the public. All transportation of animals outside an animal facility, including building to building, must be described in an approved protocol. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that there is protocol and facility manager approval prior to moving animals between facilities. The IACUC must approve any exemption to this procedure, prior to its application.

PROCEDURE:

General considerations:

- All transportation must be in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and facility-specific standard operating procedures.
- Containment used for transport must:
 - limit exposure to allergens, waste products or odors (e.g., filter top cages for rodents).
 - provide sufficient air for normal respiration.
 - prevent escape of the animal if an accident occurs.
 - be safe for the animal and species-appropriate (e.g., coolers for fish).
 - be sanitizable or disposable.
 - ideally be the animal's home containment to limit stress.
- Live animals should not remain outside of approved housing facilities for more than 12 hours unless specifically approved in the animal protocol.
- Following transportation, animals should have access to food and water unless restriction is stipulated and approved in the animal use protocol.

Pedestrian transportation between buildings:

- Small animals may be manually transported from the housing facility to a laboratory in secured containment.
- Containment must be protected from temperature extremes, sunlight, car lights, or visual observation by use of opaque plastic bags or boxes, opaque fabric, or other opaque covering.
- To prevent escape of animals or spillage of contents, containment should be secured with nonresidue tape, bungee cords, rubber bands, etc. during transport.

Vehicular transportation:

- **Under no circumstances shall animals be transported by public transportation such as campus or city buses or shuttles.**
- Transport of animals between University facilities must be performed in a University vehicle, and animals must be in appropriate containment (see above). It is the responsibility of the PI, lab manager or other animal care personnel to acquire clearance, approvals and reservations for the vehicle obtained through Campus Security.
- Exceptions, (e.g., transportation of fish in non-University owned vehicles), must be included in an IACUC-approved animal protocol and must be approved by all applicable University departments.

- General criteria for an approved vehicle include:
 - adequate heating/cooling to keep animal ambient temperature between 45-85 degrees F (7-30 degrees C), which may involve preheating or precooling the vehicle used for transport.
 - protection from direct sun.
 - protection from public view.
 - method to contain waste.
 - method to discourage allergens.
 - method to secure containment inside the vehicle (e.g., bungee cords).
- separation of animal and personnel spaces.

Approved by the IACUC 17 December 2015

Author(s): S. Emer, C. Bashur