



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy

Animal Transportation Policy

IACUC Reviewed and Approved: 9/10/2019

1.0 Scope and Application

The Animal Welfare Regulations state that transportation of animals, including within the institution

- should be planned to limit the time involved in travel.
- must be performed in a way that decreases the introduction, transmission and spread of zoonoses.
- should provide adequate protection from temperature extremes.
- may be performed to avoid overcrowding.
- performed in such a way as to prevent potential escape during transport and protect against physical trauma.

This document provides guidance in how to achieve these criteria while moving animals outside the animal facility. Animals in approved IACUC protocols that are client-owned are exempt from this SOP if transportation is provided by the owner.

2.0 Summary of Method

- It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that any transportation of animals is adequately described in an IACUC-approved protocol. If animals are housed in a university facility it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that the facility manager is aware of the movement of animals between facilities.
- Animals should be moved in a vehicle, trailer or container that is appropriate for the species. Individuals involved in the transportation must be named on the IACUC-approved protocol and be familiar with the species and the specific requirements for transportation.
- Animals should be properly restrained within the vehicle to minimize the risk of injury during transport. If laboratory animals are transported in a vehicle, the home cage or other suitable caging with a securely closed lid will be used. Rodents being transported in their home cage require a secondary container that can be both disinfected and prevent escape into the vehicle. If contamination is a concern and the caging does not already provide protection from contamination (of vehicle or of cage), then a secondary container that can be both disinfected and suitable for preventing escape of the animals into the vehicle is to be used.
- All animals should be transported in a vehicle with temperature control to maintain a comfortable environment (between 65° and 80°F or as otherwise specified in the protocol or is appropriate for the species in question) or in an open vehicle or trailer that allows for adequate ventilation. Judgment should be used when contemplating the transport of animals in an open vehicle or trailer, on days when extreme temperatures are expected.
- Animals transported within or between buildings without the use of a vehicle must be physically controlled to prevent escape at all times. This includes the use of kennels, use of leashes, home cages (on a cart, covered/draped and with secure lids), lead ropes, gates, or other suitable method to keep the animal(s) under control. Animals in a small cage (i.e. rodent cage) may be hand carried within or between buildings provided the home cage is placed in a secondary container with a secure lid (i.e. plastic tote box). If not opaque, the secondary container should be covered/draped.

- Animals should not be left in a vehicle or trailer unattended except for short time periods or unless the animal is secured and temperature/environmental conditions are appropriate.
- Any questions regarding transportation of animals should be directed to OLAC office 974-5634 or IACUC office at iacuc@utk.edu

3.0 References

NRC (National Research Council). 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.