

<b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b>		<b>UNTHSC</b>
<b>Title:</b> Animal Transport		
<b>Document #:</b> 022	<b>Version #:</b> 04	
<b>Approved by IACUC Date:</b> February 15, 2023		

**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

All transportation of animals should be planned to minimize transit time and the risk of public exposure to allergens and/or zoonotic agents, protect against environmental extremes, avoid overcrowding, provide food and water when indicated, and protect against physical trauma.

**B. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. All personnel transporting animals must ensure the procedures below are followed.
- b. Principal Investigators or their staff are responsible for moving animals to and from their laboratory to the animal facility if located in the same (or adjacent for EAD) building.
- c. Only DLAM staff can move animals between buildings.

**C. PROCEDURES**

- a. Because of public health, animal health, security and public relation concerns, laboratory animals must be transported only in their primary enclosures. Alternatively, animals may be transported in approved transport cages, as long as they are adequate in size and made of materials that can be readily sanitized.
- b. Only the freight elevators should be used to transport animals to and from laboratories. If the freight elevator is out of service, signs will be placed near the passenger elevator temporarily assigned for transporting animals. Animals may not be transported on stairs.
- c. All transport devices must be sanitized in accordance with IACUC SOP 050: Standards for Sanitization of Animal Use Laboratories.
- d. **Transport between vivarium and a laboratory:**
  - i. Only animals in the conventional housing rooms may be moved to and from the laboratory freely by laboratory personnel, within the same building (or adjacent for EAD). Animals inside the barrier may be taken to the laboratory, but will not be allowed to return to the barrier facility.
  - ii. If using the home cage, do not overcrowd the cage. Animal density requirements must be followed. Refer to the *Guide* or contact the DLAM Facility Manager for questions regarding how many animals are allowed per cage.
  - iii. Remove or invert water bottles during transport to prevent dampening of the bedding. Place water bottles back to allow the animal access to water after arrival in the lab.
  - iv. Assure that food is available in the hopper.
  - v. If the cage is extremely soiled, it is advisable to use a clean cage, taken from the Bio-bubble. This will reduce odors during transport and while working in the laboratory.
  - vi. Cover rodent cages with a plastic micro-isolator top prior to removing rodents from the animal room.

- vii. Completely conceal all cages with a clean Tyvek or similar cover to prevent viewing of animals by people in public hallways. Ask DLAM member for a Tyvek cover if one is needed. The same cover may be re-used for the same animals; however, do not return the dirty cover to DLAM for others to use it.
- viii. When transporting multiple cages, use a transport cart, supplied by the laboratory.
- e. **Transport of animals between buildings:**
  - i. Only DLAM staff can transport animals between buildings.
  - ii. Complete the Internal Animal Transfer Request/ Record form to request animals to be transferred between buildings.
  - iii. The form must be received at least twenty-four hours in advance, prior to the transfer.
  - iv. Clearly mark the cage(s) that need to be transferred.
- f. **Transporting animals to and from the imaging room (RES 080):**
  - i. Animals from the RES facility may be transported to and from the imaging room.
    1. A clean cage must be taken from the Bio-bubble in the same hall where the animals are housed. Place the animal in the clean cage with food and water. Cover the cage with a micro-isolator top.
    2. A Tyvek cover should be placed over the cage. This cover can be obtained from DLAM.
    3. The cage may be carried by hand carry, or it may be transported on a cart to the imaging room.
    4. After using the imager, sanitize the imaging chamber/area and return the animal to the transport cage. Cover the cage with the Tyvek cover and return the animal to its home cage in the animal room.
    5. Take the used transport cage to the cage wash room, in the conventional hallway. Obtain a new cage for the next transport, if needed. The Tyvek cover can be re-used.
  - ii. Animals from the barrier facility may be transported to the imaging room, by completing the Animal Transfer Request form, as described above.
    1. After using the imager, sanitize the imaging chamber/ area and return the animal to the transport cage.
    2. Animals taken from the barrier facility may not be returned to the barrier. Arrangements can be made to house the animals in the conventional housing area, if the procedure is not terminal.
    3. Once housed, the transport cage can be taken to the cage wash room.

#### **D. REFERENCES**

- a. National Research Council. 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>
- b. USDA. 2022. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations, 9 CFR Parts 1,2,3 and 4.  
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/AC\\_BlueBook\\_AWA\\_508\\_comp\\_version.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/AC_BlueBook_AWA_508_comp_version.pdf)
- c. UNTHSC (2023) IACUC SOP 050: Standards for Sanitization of Animal Use Laboratories

<https://www.unthsc.edu/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/050-Standards-for-Sanitization-of-Animal-Use-Laboratories-v4.pdf>