

Policy on Animal Transport

1.0 Scope and Application

This guidance applies to all Laboratory Animal Resources and research personnel transporting animals or soiled equipment intra-institutionally.

2.0 Summary of Method

- When transporting animals between buildings the shortest, swiftest, most direct route to the destination must be utilized. No additional stops between the origin and destination should be made.
- When animals are transported outside dedicated LAR facilities the primary enclosure must be opaque, secondarily contained, or draped to obstruct human view. If rodents are transported in a micro-isolator cage, make certain the wire bars are in place to prevent damage to the filter top. Reverse the water bottle to avoid flooding during transit. Food may be left in the hopper.
- The lid to the cage should be secured with tape or rubber bands. Animal cages must be identified with cage cards. Cages should be stacked for transport only and must be unstacked when the destination is reached.
- Cages containing animals that have been exposed to hazardous materials must be secondarily contained. The cages should be placed securely into the secondary container in a manner that prevents excessive movement. The secondary container used in the transport of rodents must be sanitized after use with an appropriate disinfectant or discarded. See LAR for appropriate disinfectant.
- For intra-institutional vehicle transport of live animals dedicated climate-controlled LAR vehicles are available. For LAR assistance with animal transport during normal business hours, an LAR Animal Transport Request must be completed and received at least two business days before the desired delivery time. Use of personal vehicles is discouraged and must be approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) before use. All vehicles approved by the ACUC for animal transport must undergo semi-annual inspection. For vehicle transport, primary enclosures should be secondarily contained and should be placed in the vehicle in a manner that allows adequate airflow and prevents excessive movement.
- Soiled equipment transported in public spaces must be disinfected or bagged before movement and draped to obstruct the view.