

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Standard Operating Procedures

Title: Animal Transportation Requirements

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Approval/Date:

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Date

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PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

All personnel transporting animals must ensure the procedures below are followed regarding the transportation of animals. Principal Investigators (PIs) or their staff are responsible for moving animals to and from their laboratory to the animal facility if located in the same building. Transporting of animals between buildings or from the field should be coordinated with LAF Management and/or follow procedures detailed in the associated Animal Use Protocol.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNT- University of North Texas, Denton
IACUC- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
SOP/SOP's- Standard Operating Procedure(s)
PI- Principal Investigator
USDA- United States Department of Agriculture
LAF- Laboratory Animal Facility

PROCEDURES

I. Transport

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- **A.** Because of public health, animal health, security and public relation concerns, laboratory animals must be transported only in their primary enclosures.
- **B.** 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.
- **C.** All transport devices must be covered when moved through public access elevators and corridors.
 - 1. Transport between vivarium and a laboratory
 - a) Only animals in the conventional housing rooms may be moved to and from the laboratory freely by laboratory personnel, provided they are in the same building.
 - b) If using the home cage, do not overcrowd the cage. Animal density requirements must be followed. Refer to the Lab Animal Facility Manager for questions regarding how many animals are allowed per cage.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Assure that food is available in the hopper.
 - e) If the cage is soiled, it is advisable to use a clean cage. This will help with odors escaping from the cage during the transport and reduce the amount of odors while working in the laboratory.
 - f) Cover rodent cages with a plastic micro-isolator top prior to removing rodents from the animal room.
 - g) Completely conceal all cages with a clean Tyvek sheet or similar cover to prevent viewing of animals by people in public hallways.
 - h) When transporting multiple cages, use a transport cart, supplied by the laboratory.
 - 2. Transport of animals between buildings
 - a) Should be coordinated with LAF Management or have prior approval of procedure through an approved AUP.

REFERENCES

- 1. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
- 2. The Animal Welfare Act

APPENDICES

IACUC Standard Operating Procedures