



Policy on Animal Transport for Research or Instructional Purposes

The transportation of animals within animal facilities or outside of animal facilities may be necessary at times to accomplish the research or instructional goals. All applicable laws, regulations, and policies must be followed when animals are transported, to ensure the welfare of the animals and the safety and security of personnel. This policy does not cover the movement of animals by facility management for management purposes.

Within Facility

Movement of animals within an animal housing facility must be performed with the knowledge and permission of facility management. Change in housing room within a URAR facility must first be approved by URAR, and URAR personnel must perform the transfer unless otherwise approved by the IACUC, in the AUP.

Care must be taken when moving animals from room to room within a facility. Methods will vary depending on the species. Rodents and other animals housed in shoebox caging and similarly sized containers should be moved in their regular caging with a covering to prevent escapes. Rodents kept in suspended housing can be moved in their home cages, but the cages must be covered with a lid during transport.

Rabbits must be carried by hand using a restraint technique which supports the hind limbs, or in opaque rat boxes. Animals housed in cages with wheels should be moved in their home caging to new rooms. Dogs may be walked to new rooms on leashes.

Nonhuman primates, poultry, and livestock, such as cows, pigs or horses, must be moved according to facility standard operating procedures, which can be provided by the facility supervisor. In general, animals must be transported in a manner which prevents escape.

Out of Facility

Animals may need to be moved from their housing room to a lab or workspace that is outside the animal facility. The lab space may be in the same building as the facility, or in a separate building. Any movement of live animals out of the animal facility must be approved by the IACUC, in the AUP.

Rodents leaving the facility must be in shoebox caging with a lid closing the cage or other appropriate transport container. Animals in transport must be shielded from view, which may require a covering over the container.

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Other small animal species - i.e., small, non-rodent mammals (e.g., rabbits, cats, dogs); birds; fish; amphibians; reptiles including exotics and wildlife – must be transported in an appropriately sized transport container that will provide a safe, secure, and comfortable mode of transport.

All animals in transport cages/containers or home cages that need to be moved by vehicle must be moved in a vehicle with air conditioning and heating if the animals are transported in the cabin of the vehicle. When transporting animals within an enclosed vehicle, transporters must ensure the inside of the vehicle is of an appropriate temperature before placing the animals inside. If animals are transported outside of the cabin (e.g., trailer or covered truck bed) the area where the animals are placed must be adequately ventilated. Whether inside or out of the cabin, crates must be securely positioned in the vehicle to prevent excessive movement during transit. Transport cages/containers and vehicles must be adequately sanitized between uses, and a log documenting sanitization must be maintained.

When transporting hoofstock by trailer, the trailer must be of appropriate and safe design, and contain no sharp edges or protrusions. Gates must function safely and properly. Floors should be checked for overall support integrity, and must be firm, stable, and safe to transport animals. Trailers must be adequately sanitized between uses. Alternatively, hoofstock that can comfortably fit inside an animal transport crate may be transported in such a container. Whether inside or out of the cabin, crates must be securely positioned in the vehicle to prevent excessive movement during transit.

Beyond the standards that are specified in this policy, the transport of agricultural species must comply with the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching.

Movement of Animals: University Research Animal Resources

When moving animals between URAR facilities or from a non-URAR to a URAR facility: URAR personnel must perform the transport and housing set up (if applicable), and adequate lead time and proper notification must be provided to the facility supervisor or URAR Manager. If the PI intends not to have URAR transport the animals, the arrangement must be approved by the IACUC, in the AUP. If an animal user intends to have URAR transport the animals, but URAR is unavailable, the user may transport the animals, under the direction and prior approval of URAR, on a case-by-case basis.

When moving animals from a URAR facility to a non-URAR facility: URAR personnel must perform the transport, and adequate lead time and proper notification must be provided to the facility supervisor or URAR Manager. If the PI intends not to have URAR transport the animals, the arrangement must be approved by the IACUC, in the AUP. If an animal user intends to have URAR transport the animals, but URAR is unavailable, the user may transport the animals, under the direction and prior approval of URAR, on a case-by-case basis.

When moving animals between non-URAR facilities: URAR need not perform the transport, but may provide assistance if requested.

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Biosecurity

When animals are introduced or returned to a URAR facility, specific procedures must be followed to prevent contamination; URAR can provide more information. Management of non-URAR facilities must also include measures to prevent such contamination, which may or may not align with URAR practices.

Transport of Animals Administered Infectious or Recombinant Agents

Transportation of animals that have been administered infectious or recombinant agents must be coordinated with the Office of Biosafety (OBS) and URAR (if any URAR facility is involved). Any necessary approval from the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) - as determined by the IBC - must be acquired prior to transport, and transport must follow OBS/IBC guidelines.