

IACUC POLICIES, PROCEDURES, and GUIDELINES

Animal Transport

Purpose:

The conduct of certain research projects requires the transport of research animals through public areas to sites where specialized equipment or housing is located or due to other research related needs.

This document establishes performance standards (desired outcomes) for the transport of laboratory animal species maintained at the University of Kentucky and used in biomedical and agricultural research. Details of how transportation will be performed will be described in the protocol. Facility location, distance, weather and other factors may impact the method of transportation selected by the investigator(s) in the particular animal use protocol.

The intent of this document is to provide guidance to investigators regarding recommended transportation methods when research requirements do not mandate specific methods.

Responsibilities:

All personnel transporting animals should be familiar with the facilities, preferred routes to follow and procedures used to minimize public exposure to allergens while enhancing safety for the animals being transported and maintaining biosecurity (measures used to stop the spread or introduction of known or unknown infections in animals, including those that are potentially harmful to humans, other animals and the environment).

The transportation of animals must be justified in the protocol. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of the University of Kentucky must review and approve all methods of transportation proposed as a component of an animal use protocol.

General Guidelines:

The following guidelines are applicable whenever research animals are being transported:

- 1 All animals must be moved in a manner that ensures their safety and the safety of the handlers, the public and other animals. The transportation enclosures must prevent escape, spillage or injury, and be disposable or constructed of impervious materials that are easy to clean and sanitize. If disposable carriers are used, these should be discarded after their first use and not reused to carry additional animals.

- 2 Before use, cages, carts, trailers or any other primary enclosure used for the transportation of animals, must be clean and free of contaminants that may pose a risk to the animals, handlers, the public or the environment. These must also be cleaned after use.
- 3 The use of open carts, flatbeds or other open means to transport animals is strongly discouraged. Animals transported through patient care areas (such as KY Clinic or Chandler Medical Center/Hospital) **MUST** be in an enclosed cart. Farm species can be transported using contemporary farm practices.
- 4 The shortest route to the final destination is usually preferred. However the selection of the route to be followed may be influenced by several factors including, but not limited to: species, number of animals, weather conditions, patient traffic (in the case of hospital areas), etc.

References:

- 1 Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (U.S.). 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press
- 2 Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (U.S.) 2006 Guidelines for the Humane Transportation of Research Animals. Washington, D.C. National Academy Press
- 3 Federation of Animal Science Societies, (U.S) 2010. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching Champaign IL

Approved and Adopted by the
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
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