

UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Policy:	SC-20-108
Date:	4/6/2018
Enabled by:	Guide AWA Ag Guide PHS
Supersedes:	6/10/2016

Title: Transportation of Research and Teaching Animals

I. Purpose:

The health status of groups of animals (herds, flocks, colonies, etc.) and individual animals can have a profound effect on research results and should therefore be carefully monitored and controlled. This includes when animals are in transit. There are specific requirements with regards to the transport of animals. This policy ensures that we follow the requirements and guidelines to ensure the health and safety of our animals and personnel are protected.

II. Policy:

The physical transport of animals shall be in accordance with the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*, the *USDA Animal Welfare Act (AWA)*, and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals (Ag Guide)*. Animals will be properly identified in transit according to the species specific standard for identification of animals.

Permission to move animals from facility to facility shall be granted by the Attending Veterinarian (AV) or designee for biomedical research and teaching animals. Requests for physical transfers from one housing location to another (room to room, facility to facility etc.) shall be made through the Animal Tracking System (ATS) 24-72 hours in advance of the actual transport date.

Transfers to lab or procedure space not in a vivarium shall be reviewed at the time of protocol submission by the AV or designee and may be revoked at any time due to health concerns (use of the ATS may be instituted at the discretion of the AV for this movement when health concerns concern or risk indicates). Transfer to and from core facilities should be placed in the animal tracking system and/or cleared with the AV or designee. Transfers to core facilities involving an overnight in a different vivarium must be placed in the ATS. Physical transfers between agricultural facilities are approved locally by the designated facility manager and do not normally route through ATS.

Movement into biomedical research (BMR) and teaching facilities from agricultural areas requires the use of the ATS to document transfer onto a BMR protocol and into BMR facilities. Declaring acquisition is not sufficient, a physical location transfer must be

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placed alerting the incoming BMR facility of the impending transfer of animals.

The IACUC Policy on movement of animals must also be followed for transport to and from laboratory or procedural spaces.

III. Procedure:

The animals shall be in enclosures appropriate for the species, and an appropriate number of animals shall be in each container as recommended by the ILAR Guide, Ag Guide, USDA/PHS Policy, and/or other pertinent guidelines as recommended by the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and the IACUC.

A few examples:

USDA covered species will have adequate room to turn around in the container. Note: Transport of livestock or hoof stock to and from procedure, clinical and surgical space may be accomplished in restraint carts to ensure the safety of the animal and personnel working with the animal. Animals are generally not permitted to turn around in restraint carts for their own safety.

Animals must be transported in the climate controlled portion of the vehicle with the exception of horses and livestock or hoof stock or other animals which are transported in trailers appropriate for the species or restraint carts that can be open to the air. Care must be given to the ambient temperature and the species. All provisions of the Ag Guide must be followed for horses and livestock, and hoof stock. Animals should be protected from heat & cold stress while in transit. Dedicated university owned transportation vehicles and trailers are preferred. Using privately owned vehicles (POV) or trailers is permitted but discouraged (special inspection or permit may be required for POV trailers). Additionally, if a POV is used there will be a barrier in between the transport container and the vehicles interior. Bicycle transport is generally prohibited, unless a specific IACUC exemption is obtained.

For small animals (such as rodents) the transport container should be wiped down and then covered to minimize public exposure to allergens, and minimize public view of the animals, as appropriate for the transport. Rodents shall be transported in filter topped transport boxes/caging that are secured to prevent contamination, exposure or escape. This is generally accomplished using lab tape and a paper bag or other breathable covering.

Plastic bags should not be used to transport terrestrial or non-aquatic vertebrate animals due to the hazards of asphyxiation. Non terrestrial/aquatic species transport in plastic containers will be in accordance with facility guidelines.

The transfer shall be completed with a minimum number of stops to minimize the transport time with no extraneous stops. Animals shall be transferred by trained personnel, preferably husbandry or vivarium staff. Principal Investigators (PI) are

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responsible for ensuring their personnel adhere to these provisions and the IACUC policy on transport when transporting animals.

Nonhuman primate (NHP) transport will be only accomplished by specially trained husbandry and/or veterinary staff in a designated fleet servicers/university owned vehicle approved for NHP transport. Under no circumstances will NHP be removed from the premises of a facility without Veterinary/Husbandry approval and involvement. A minimum of one driver and one animal monitor will accompany all NHP transport operations. PI transport is not permitted for nonhuman primates under any circumstances. A cellular phone or other means of emergency communication will be available at all times during transit.

Vivarium, Facilities, or Departmental guidelines may include additional policies or procedures for transporting certain species and must be followed in addition to the minimum standards outlined here. For example wiping down rodent cages with a disinfectant prior to reentry is required for most vivaria. Each facility will develop transfer and transport procedures as needed to suite their species and facility needs.

Questions about the requirements and guidelines should be directed to:

The Health Monitoring Coordinator at animaltransfer@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-7244 or 530-400-8827

IACUC Staff iacuc-staff@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-2346