OHSU IACUC POLICY ON THE TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS

Background: This document contains information concerning animal transport outside the vivarium. All personnel involved in animal care and use must follow this policy to ensure that animal transport is conducted in a safe and appropriate manner. Investigators and their research associates are reminded that all transferring and/or transporting animals between institutions, facilities, animal housing rooms, investigators or protocols requires completion of certain forms to assure regulatory compliance and to maintain the colony health status. Contact the Department of Comparative Medicine (503-494-8425) for detailed information regarding the required forms.

The following are requirements for the transportation of animals from Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM) facilities to other campus sites for experimental use and their subsequent return. PLEASE NOTE: Animals cannot be housed outside the vivarium for greater than 8 hours without the specific approval of the IACUC and DCM.

General Requirements for Transport of Animals or Dirty Caging: All transportation of animals should be planned to minimize transit time, reduce the risk of zoonoses, avoid the visibility of animals to the public, assure adequate ventilation and protect the animals against physical trauma.

1. Whenever possible, the route taken should minimize or eliminate the use of areas frequented by the general public.
2. Minimize noise and vibration by using a cart with wheels in good repair. The use of “soft” wheels is recommended.
3. When transporting animals or dirty caging on a cart, drape the cart with a cloth/sheet to ensure animals and cages are shielded from public view. **PLEASE NOTE:** yellow isolation gowns, lab coats and biohazard bags are **not acceptable** for covering cages.
4. Do not leave animals unattended outside of the vivarium.
5. Return all caging, dirty bedding and discarded carcasses to DCM at the end of the experimental procedure. Dirty caging should be covered and carcasses should be double bagged to prevent leaks.
6. Arrange transportation of large numbers of rodents or other animals with DCM.

Transport of Small Numbers of Rodent Cages

1. Transport animals within intact filter-top cages. Ensure that the lids are secure (i.e., use tape to attach lid to cage). Alternative containers may be used if adequate ventilation is provided and the containers are sanitized between animals.
2. Place cages on second and/or lower tiers of cart, whenever possible, and leave top shelf to support weight of drape.
3. Avoid stacking cages, since it can decrease air circulation through the filter tops and can lead to instability on the cart.
4. For single cages, it is acceptable to place the cage inside a paper bag or other breathable opaque bag for transport. Be sure to close the end of the bag to fully enclose the cage/cages.