

Animal Care and Use Program Policy

Transport of Animals Excluding Non-human Primates on OHSU Campuses

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Background

Transporting animals from one location to another can be stressful to laboratory animals and can increase the potential for disease transmission or injury. Investigators and their staff transferring and/or transporting animals between facilities, animal housing rooms, investigators or protocols must complete certain forms to assure regulatory compliance and to maintain the colony health status. Contact the Department of Comparative Medicine on the Central and Waterfront Campus (DCM-C) at 503-494-8425 or the Division of Comparative Medicine on the West Campus (DCM-W) Small Lab Animal Unit (SLAU) at 503-690-5228 for detailed information regarding the required forms and procedures.

Scope

This policy applies to any animals being transported on the Central/Waterfront Campus (CWC) to ensure that animal transport is conducted in a safe and appropriate manner. Transport of animals (excluding NHPs) on the West Campus (WC) should be done according to the procedures outlined in SOP SLA-008.

Policy

Requirements for the transportation of animals excluding NHPs are as follows:

1. All transportation of animals should be planned to minimize transit time, reduce the risk of zoonoses, assure adequate ventilation and temperature, and protect the animals against physical trauma. Whenever possible, all animals transported must be in a species-appropriate container. The container must be sanitizable or disposable and must have no floor openings or crevices that may injure the animal.
2. Drape the transport cart with a washable or sanitizable cloth/sheet to ensure animals and cages are shielded from public view. Yellow isolation gowns, lab coats and biohazard bags are not acceptable for covering cages.
3. Minimize noise and vibration by using a transport cart with wheels in good repair.
4. Animals must not be left unattended outside of the vivarium.
5. All caging, dirty bedding and carcasses should be returned to DCM at the end of the experimental procedure. Dirty caging should be covered and carcasses should be double bagged.
6. For transport of large numbers of animals (more than can fit on a transport cart) contact DCM-C at 503-494-8425.
7. It is not permissible to transport animals on the Portland Aerial Tram, the OHSU Shuttle bus or via any other public transportation.

Procedures

Transport using a Transport Cart or by Hand

1. Follow any special instructions posted in the animal room of origin including special personal protective equipment (PPE). Do not transport any animals outside of quarantine for any reason.
2. Transport small animals within intact filter-top cages. Ensure that the lids are secure (e.g., use tape to attach lid to cage). Alternative containers may be used if adequate ventilation is provided and the containers are sanitized between animals.
3. Place the cages on the second and/or lower tiers of the transport cart and leave top shelf to support the drape. Carts and cages must be covered with a drape during transport.

4. Avoid stacking cages, since it can decrease air circulation through the filter tops and can lead to instability on the cart.
5. It is acceptable to hand carry one or two covered cages. For single cages, it is acceptable to place the cage inside a paper bag or other breathable opaque bag for transport. The end of the bag must be closed in order to fully enclose the cage/cages.

Transport requiring a vehicle

1. Appropriate vehicles for transport include DCM-C, environmentally controlled vehicles which are preferred when transporting animals. Personal employee vehicles are allowed with prior DCM-C, approval.
2. Cages must be secured to prevent shifting while the vehicle is in motion and filter tops should be taped down to prevent spilling.
3. Cages must be placed inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle and not in open truck beds or in car trunks. The cargo area of a van or a hatchback car is acceptable.
4. Vehicle must have temperature/climate controls in order to avoid temperature extremes during transport. Animals should be removed from the vehicle as soon as possible following arrival at their destination. More than momentary exposure to direct sunlight should be avoided.

Authority

1. U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training
2. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. p 107-109
3. The AWA 9 CFR, Part 3, Standards; 2.38, f (1)

References

1. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
2. Animal Welfare Regulations
3. U.S. Government Principles