



IACUC Guidance:	TAMU-G-016	Title:	IACUC Guidelines for Transporting Animals on the Texas A&M Campus	
	Location	Effective Date	Review By	
	College Station/Dallas/Galveston/Kingsville	10/20/2022	08/31/2023	
	Houston	N/A	N/A	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This document provides information to be used when planning and performing transportation of vertebrate animals used for research, teaching, or other purposes at Texas A&M University.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. Off-Campus Transportation is not discussed in this document.
- 2.2. Long-Distance Transportation is not discussed in this document.
- 2.3. Applies to facilities with TAMU IACUC oversight, excludes Galveston.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1. The AV, or designee together with the IACUC share oversight of these transportation guidelines.
- 3.2. The AV can grant exceptions when it is considered in the best interest of the animal(s).
- 3.3. Transportation of animals should be in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et. seq.)

4. DEFINITIONS AND/OR ACRONYMS

- 4.1. **AUP:** Animal Use Protocol. Document submitted by the PI indicating the housing and research procedures involving animals.
- 4.2. **AV:** Attending Veterinarian. Individual designated by Texas A&M to fulfil the regulatory role of AV. May also describe veterinary staff with delegated authority from the AV.
- 4.3. **AWAR:** Animal Welfare Act Regulations. Regulations administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA Animal Care, a unit under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, administers the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and associated Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR).
- 4.4. **AWO:** Animal Welfare Office. Supports the IACUC administratively.
- 4.5. **CMP:** Comparative Medicine Program
- 4.6. **Cleaning:** Removes excessive amounts of excrement, dirt, and debris.
- 4.7. **Core Support:** Individuals performing professional activities such as husbandry or technical services as a function of a service organization like ANSC, CoS vivaria, CMP, ARU, PAR, PRF, CVM, TIPS, or VMP do not need to be listed individually as research participants in the AUP.
- 4.8. **Disinfection:** Reduces or eliminates unacceptable concentrations of microorganisms.
- 4.9. **Disinfectants:** Are products used to reduce or eliminate microorganisms on non-living surfaces. Sporicidal disinfectants, such as Spor-Klenz, Wexcide, 10% Bleach (prepared daily), Opticide and Roccal-D, should be used, according to manufacturer’s instructions for all surfaces and equipment with direct animal contact.
- 4.10. **IACUC:** Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Institutional body responsible for ensuring adherence to federal regulation and institutional policy relating to the care and use of animals in teaching, testing and research. Appointed by the Institutional Official.
- 4.11. **PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment.
- 4.12. **Public Area:** Includes roadways, sidewalks, corridors, and areas outside the animal vivarium or IACUC approved space.
- 4.13. **Sanitation:** Is the maintenance of environmental conditions conducive to health and well-being.
- 4.14. **SOP:** Standard Operating Procedure.
- 4.15. **SPF:** Specific pathogen free. Animals which are free of the specific pathogens tested for in CMP’s Rodent Health Surveillance Program.

4.16. **USDA Regulated:** Species or activities which fall under the AWA/AWAR.

4.17. **Zoonotic Disease:** Diseases that can be transmitted between humans and animals.

5. GUIDELINES OR PROCEDURE

5.1. General Information/Basic Principles

5.1.1. Transporting research or teaching animals within buildings, or between buildings is a routine, sometimes unavoidable task. Performing this task requires attention to a number of details to ensure the health and well-being of not only the animals but also the people in and around the areas where the animals must pass.

5.1.1.1. Animal welfare considerations include: Maintaining controlled environmental ventilation, temperature and humidity; reducing stressors such as temperature extremes, smells, excessive noise and confrontations with other animals; preventing injury to the animals; and maintenance of an animal's current health status by avoiding exposure to potential pathogens.

5.1.1.2. Human health concerns include: Allergies of animal origin, microorganisms, chemicals, radioactive materials or escaped animals.

5.1.2. Transportation of animals must be done in a direct and timely manner, avoiding public areas as much as possible.

5.1.3. Animals must not be transported with any other incompatible animal, substance, or device that may potentially cause injury to the animal being transported.

5.1.4. Enclosures containing animals must:

5.1.4.1. Be maintained in a manner that will prevent them from tipping or falling.

5.1.4.2. Be handled in a manner that will minimize any physical trauma or distress to the animals.

5.1.4.3. Be secure.

5.1.4.4. Provide adequate ventilation (Note: Using enclosed impermeable containers or trash bags/shrink wrap without air holes does not provide adequate ventilation)

5.1.4.5. Use the same density requirements for general animal housing as described in *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, or the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*, as applicable.

5.1.4.6. Be constructed of materials that can either be cleaned or sanitized or disposed of, and be designed to prevent the spread of fomites, microorganisms, chemicals, or radioactive materials where indicated.

5.1.4.7. Protect the transporter from exposure to licks, bites, scratches or other animal contact during transit.

5.1.5. For aquatic species and amphibians, special considerations are required for transportation in an aqueous or sufficiently moist environment.

5.1.6. For rodents, primary enclosures must:

5.1.6.1. Be placed in covered or opaque secondary cages, carriers, or containers for transport to another floor in the same building or outside of the building.

5.1.6.2. Provide food and a source of water if rodents will be held within the transport container for longer than 4 hours.

5.1.7. For livestock species:

5.1.7.1. Transport vehicles are inspected by the IACUC and driven by core support personnel.

5.1.7.2. Transport vehicles should be clean, dry, and equipped with a well-bedded, nonslippery floor.

5.1.7.3. Animals should be transported at appropriate densities to reduce the chance of injury.

5.1.7.4. The inside walls and lining of the vehicles should have no sharp edges or protrusions.

5.2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) During Animal Transport

5.2.1. When transporting animals, wear appropriate PPE.

5.2.2. Dispose of PPE appropriately to prevent creation of fomites for transmitting pathogens.

5.3. Interfacility Animal Transport Requests

- 5.3.1. CMP provides interfacility animal transport in an environmentally-controlled vehicle upon request by research personnel.
- 5.3.2. When extreme temperatures exist, special precautions (in addition to the environmentally controlled vehicles used by CMP) may need to be taken. Discuss applicability of transport and special precautions with the AV prior to transport.
 - 5.3.2.1. Protection of livestock from temperature extremes may include:
 - 5.3.2.1.1. Prompt unloading
 - 5.3.2.1.2. Fans/ water-misters
 - 5.3.2.1.3. Appropriate bedding
- 5.3.3. Special requirements for USDA-covered, non-rodent mammal species:
 - 5.3.3.1. Animal(s) undergoing active post-procedural monitoring on the requested day of transport must be evaluated and cleared for transport by the AV, or designee.
 - 5.3.3.1.1. If a transport delay is required, the research staff are responsible for rescheduling the interfacility transport request.
 - 5.3.3.2. Research personnel are responsible for ensuring ongoing animal medical records are brought to the destination facility the day of transport.
 - 5.3.3.3. Animals may be held after transportation in a species appropriate holding location and provided species-specific food/water.
 - 5.3.3.4. Animals are housed within 4 hours following transport.
- 5.4. Transport Using Private (personal) Vehicles
 - 5.4.1. The use of private vehicles is strongly discouraged as a means to transport laboratory animals; however, the IACUC recognizes that there are circumstances in which this is unavoidable. Under these circumstances, the IACUC requires investigators to contact CMP to verify that there are no workable alternatives and to assure that the proper precautions are being taken for transportation prior to using a private vehicle. Texas A&M University is not responsible for any damages to the private vehicle caused by the transport of laboratory animals.
 - 5.4.2. Transportation should provide an appropriate level of animal biosecurity (Contact the office of Biosafety for additional recommendations: 979-862-4549), ensure the protection of the animals, and protect research personnel from injury.
 - 5.4.3. The vehicle must be operated by personnel listed on the IACUC protocol.
 - 5.4.4. Containers must comply with the following: Able to be sanitized; spill proof, preventing waste from falling outside the container; secure; provide adequate ventilation; have a solid floor; and be free of sharp edges that could harm the animal.
 - 5.4.5. Animal transport cages should not be overcrowded, and the animals have sufficient floor space to make normal postural movements.
 - 5.4.5.1. For rodents, the home cage inside an opaque, ventilated bin/tote is appropriate.
 - 5.4.6. Animals that have been treated with hazardous agents (i.e., biological, chemical, radiological) shall **not** be transported in a private vehicle.
 - 5.4.7. Vehicles carrying laboratory animals should be suitable for the purpose, insulated and fitted with controllable heating, cooling and ventilation. The temperature-controlled area of the vehicle must be used with cages/crates secured with a seatbelt or bungee cord. A plastic barrier should be placed between the cage/crate and the vehicle, or the area must be designed to allow for a thorough cleaning and disinfection.
 - 5.4.8. The persons responsible for transportation should have a mobile phone and contact numbers in case of emergency, consult with individuals knowledgeable about the transport of the species, and minimize transport times by careful planning of the route and avoiding any delays. Animals should not be left unattended.
 - 5.4.9. No eating, drinking, or smoking while transporting animals.

5.5. Sanitation



- 5.5.1. Avoiding microbial contamination is of particular importance for immunocompromised, genetically modified, and specific pathogen-free animals.
- 5.5.2. Use of a transportation container for repeatedly moving animals of the same species and health status throughout the course of a day requires cleaning or sanitation/disposal at the end of the day, or before next use.
- 5.5.3. Use of a transportation container for moving animals of differing species, from different investigators, or of differing health status may require sanitation or disposal after each use, or before next use. Contact CMP for more information.
- 5.5.4. See TAMU-G-026 for more information regarding sanitation, and evaluation of its efficacy.

5.6. Handwashing

- 5.6.1. Washing of hands following transport of a live animal or carcass is an important step for prevention of the spread of infectious organisms or other contaminants to both personnel and animals. While the use of exam gloves will greatly decrease the spread of contaminants from a person's hands, they will not completely eliminate this transfer due to micro-breaks in glove materials, regardless of type (latex, vinyl or nitrile). For effective hand washing, antimicrobial soaps or alcohol-based hand rubs (60-95% alcohol) are recommended for use.

6. REFERENCES, MATERIALS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1. References

- 6.1.1. Committee on Guidelines for the Humane Transportation of Laboratory Animals, N.R.C. Guidelines for the Humane Transportation of Research Animals. The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C. 2006 (Pre-publication copy)
- 6.1.2. Federation of Animal Science Societies. 2010. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching. 3rd Edition.
- 6.1.3. ILAR. 1996. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
- 6.1.4. National Institutes of Health Animal Transportation Guidelines.
- 6.1.5. Report of the Transport Working Group established by the Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA). Guidance on the transport of laboratory animals, Laboratory Animals, 39: 1-39, 2005.

6.2. Resources

- 6.2.1. The [CMP](#) provides an Animal Transport Service for investigators on the College Station campus. The service uses environmentally controlled trucks and trained drivers, and can accommodate most species of animals used on campus. The service is in place to ensure teaching and research animals are transported within the guidelines set forth under federal law. It also serves as a convenience for investigators and their staff. For additional information about this service contact CMP at 979-845-7433.
- 6.2.2. TAMU-G-026 Guidelines for Evaluation of Sanitation Practices
- 6.2.3. TAMU-O-006 CMP Transport Cages Sign

6.3. Acknowledgments

- 6.3.1. This document contains content that was adapted from materials obtained from the University of Michigan and the University of Texas at Austin.

7. HISTORY

Effective Date	Version #	Description
09/19/2019	000	College Station/Galveston: New document
09/01/2020	001	College Station/Galveston: Renewal of expiring document; updated definitions; clarification of secondary container requirements for rodents. Reviewed and approved via email.



03/24/2022	002	College Station/Dallas/Galveston: Merging of Dallas animal care and use program with College Station/Galveston
10/20/2022	003	College Station/Dallas/Galveston/Kingsville: Merging of Kingsville animal care and use program with College Station/Dallas/Galveston.