



Animal Care Committee (ACC)

Title:

**Transportation of Research and Teaching Animals****SOP.ACC. 801. Transportation of Research and Teaching Animals****1. Purpose**

To give instructions for the efficient and safe transportation of University owned research and teaching animals (all species) to and from campus or between campus facilities.

**2. Responsibility**

Animal Facility Manager, Principal Investigator/Instructor

**3. Equipment**

- Species-appropriate animal transport enclosure or climate-controlled transport vehicle
- Opaque drape or bag to cover the transport enclosure, where applicable
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate for handling species

**4. Procedures****MODE OF TRANSPORTATION**

- 4.1 Whenever a PI is arranging transportation, it should be done in consultation with animal facility manager. When appropriate a known professional carrier (courier, livestock transporter etc.) with species-specific experience transport should be selected.
- 4.2 If a professional carrier is not available or feasible, transportation via University vehicle, by University animal care staff trained in the care and transport of the species being moved, should be undertaken in consultation with facility manager.
- 4.3 In RARE exceptions transport may be accomplished in personal vehicles but this requires prior approval by the University Animal Care Committee (ACC). Note: In such cases the transporting personnel should consult with the [Insurance Office](#) to determine the legal ramifications of using personal vehicles to conduct University business.

**PROPERTIES OF VEHICLE/CARRIER**

- 4.4 Any vehicle/carrier used for transportation of animals must:
  - a) Be clean and in good working condition capable of maintaining an internal ambient temperature appropriate to the species.
  - b) Consist of material that can be sanitized between groups of animals being transported.
  - c) Be species appropriate in size and shape to allow for animals to adopt a normal posture and free of elements that have the potential to cause injury (sharp edges or out-jutting objects).
  - d) Allow for quick, consistent, and easy observation of animals to assess species specific condition.
  - e) Be designed & constructed to contain the animals securely and prevent escape.
  - f) Be properly ventilated to i) ensure adequate volume and quality of air to all animals being transported and ii) prevent the build-up of harmful gases, temperature, or humidity, even when stationary.
  - g) Provide shelter from direct sunlight for extended periods of time.
  - h) For aquatic animals, water must be always maintained in species-appropriate ranges with respect

to temperature, oxygen content, ammonia, pH, CO<sub>2</sub>, and salinity.

- i) Outdoor transportation by foot is acceptable only for short distances, under 1km. An insulated secondary container (i.e., cooler bag) must be used for small animals (e.g., rodents, reptiles, amphibians, small birds) to provide protection from noise and the elements, and as a safeguard against animals escaping. Proper control/restraint measures and trained personnel need to be in place before walking a horse or mature bovine. Small ruminants (sheep and goats) and pigs are not amenable to this mode of transport.
- j) Provide for the ability for animal containers to be secured to the vehicle's internal structure during transit.

**Note:**

- a) Animals must not be left unattended in a vehicle for more than 15 minutes during transport and the vehicle must be locked if unattended. Transporters must be aware that conditions may deteriorate in less than 15 minutes under extreme environmental conditions and gauge such periods so as not to jeopardize animal health and well-being;
- b) Animals must not be placed in the vehicle's trunk; and
- c) Public transport (e.g., bus, taxi, etc.) is NOT permitted to move animals.

***ANIMALS***

- 4.5 Prior to transport, proper care must be taken to thoroughly assess the health and state of the animals to ensure they are fit to undergo the entire transport procedure without encountering pain or distress; when appropriate such an assessment should be made by a veterinarian or trained animal care personnel.
- 4.6 Regardless of the mode, transportation being used must seek to:
  - a. Minimize transit time, particularly for those animals, which are most vulnerable e.g., young animals, pregnant animals;
  - b. Prevent public exposure to the animals;
  - c. Prevent escape of the animals;
  - d. Protect the animals against contaminants and aversive conditions e.g., disease vectors, extreme environmental conditions, physical injuries, over-crowding; and
  - e. Seek to maintain social groupings whenever possible.
- 4.7 For longer periods of transport (> 2 hours), species appropriate needs such as food, water and bedding should be provided.
- 4.8 Prior to transporting animals on or off campus, both the shipping and receiving facilities must be contacted to ensure that the ACC has authorized the animal acquisition, and that the facility veterinarian has approved the health status of the animals for transport in order to facilitate the shipment; this should be done with sufficient lead-time to allow both facilities to properly prepare for shipping and receiving the animals. If transporting internationally be aware of regulations and contact appropriate experts.
- 4.9 All vehicle transport journeys must have a contingency plan in place that allows the needs of animals to be met in the event of any delays arising during transportation from unforeseen circumstances.
- 4.10 Animals should be inspected at regular intervals appropriate for the species during longer (> 2 hrs) trips and immediate action is required if, at any time, dangerous, harmful, or distressing conditions arise. Such action may involve seeking or applying treatment to an animal, altering the transport plan or humane euthanasia.

## 5. References

- ***SOP.ACC.802.Procurement and Receiving of Animals onto university premises (in development)***
- CCAC Guidelines on: *Procurement of Animals used in Science*
- CCAC Guidelines on: *The care and use of Farm Animals in research, teaching, and testing*
- New Zealand Code of Welfare 2011
- *Codes of Practice, NFACC*
- *FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*