

<b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b>		<b>UNTHSC</b>
Title: Animal Transport		
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**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- a. All transportation of animals should be planned to minimize transit time and the risk of public exposure to allergens and/or zoonotic agents, protect against environmental extremes, avoid overcrowding, provide food and water when indicated, and protect against physical trauma.

**B. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. All personnel transporting animals must ensure the procedures below are followed regarding the transportation of animals.
- b. Principal Investigators (PIs) or their staff is responsible for moving animals to and from their lab.
- c. Only DLAM staff can move animals to and from the CBH building.

**C. PROCEDURES**

- a. Because of public health, animal health, security and public relation concerns, laboratory animals must be transported only in their primary enclosures or in approved transport cages adequate in size and that are made of materials that can be readily sanitized.
- b. All transport devices must be covered if moved through public access elevators and corridors.
- c. Only the freight elevators should be used to transport animals to and from laboratories unless it is out of service. Signs will be placed near the elevators when it is permissible to use the passenger elevators.
- d. **Transport between vivarium and a laboratory:**
  - i. Only animals in the conventional hallway in the RES and animals in the CBH vivarium can be moved to and from the lab freely by lab personnel, provided they are in the same building. Animals inside the barrier can be removed but they are not allowed to be returned.
  - ii. If using the home cage, do not overcrowd the cage. Animal density requirements must be followed. Refer to the *Guide* or contact the DLAM Facility Manager for questions regarding how many animals are allowed per cage.
  - iii. Remove or invert water bottles during transport to prevent dampening of the bedding. Place water bottles back to allow the animal access to water after arrival in the lab.
  - iv. Assure that food is available in the hopper.

- v. If the cage is extremely soiled, it is advisable to use a clean cage, taken from the Bio-bubble. This will help with odors escaping from the cage during the transport and reduce the amount of odors while working in the lab.
  - vi. Cover rodent cages with a plastic micro-isolator top prior to removing rodents from the animal room.
  - vii. Completely conceal all cages with a clean Tyvek or similar cover to prevent viewing of animals by people in public hallways. Tyvek covers are available from DLAM. Ask a member of DLAM for a cover if one is needed. Re-use the same cover for the animals; do not return the dirty cover to DLAM for others to use it.
  - viii. When transporting multiple cages, use a transport cart, supplied by the lab.
- e. **Transport of animals to and from the CBH and RES building:**
- i. Only DLAM staff can transport animals to and from the two buildings.
  - ii. If animals from one building are needed in the other, contact the Quality and Compliance Officer (email or ext. 0580) and request the transfer.
  - iii. Twenty-four hours' notice is required for these transfers.
  - iv. The cage(es) that need transferred should be clearly marked.
- f. **Transporting animals to and from the imaging room (RES 014):**
- i. Animals from the conventional (animal rooms outside the barrier) or barrier hall can be transported to and from the imaging room.
  - ii. A clean cage must be taken from the Bio-bubble in the same hall where the animals are housed. Place the animal in the clean cage with food and water. Cover the cage with a micro-isolator top.
  - iii. Cover the cage with a Tyvek cover (can be obtained from DLAM).
  - iv. Hand carry or transport the cage on a cart to the imaging room.
  - v. After using the imager, sanitize the imaging chamber/area and return the animal to the transport cage. Cover the cage with the Tyvek cover and return the animal to its home cage in the animal room.
  - vi. Take the used transport cage to the cage wash room, in the conventional hallway. Obtain a new cage for the next transport, if needed. The Tyvek cover can be re-used.