CLEANING AND SANITIZING EQUIPMENT USED IN THE TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The intent of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (ACUP) is to describe the methods used for cleaning and sanitizing vehicles used in the transportation of animals. This ACUP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its implementation.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This ACUP is intended for staff responsible for animal transport vehicle cleaning.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. Cleaning and sanitization of animal transport vehicles is an important component of animal biosecurity. Control of vehicle detergent and disinfecting agents is crucial so as to avoid chemical run-off into the environment. Use of these compounds must be performed in a manner so as to allow capture of chemicals for either sanitary sewer or approved solid waste disposal.

NOTE: As with any infectious agent, Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) should be contacted at (607) 255-8200 and consulted for proper disposal location and considerations.

3.2. Contact CARE at care@cornell.edu for more information or for assistance.

4. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

4.1. Animal transport vehicle
4.2. Animal waste disposal items (e.g., shovel, broom, waste collection container)
4.3. Disinfectant (e.g., bleach/water solution or quaternary ammonium compound diluted as per manufacturer’s recommendations)
4.4. Water
4.5. Chemical collection equipment (e.g., sanitary sewer drain ± mop/bucket, garbage collection method)
5. PROCEDURE

5.1. General Considerations

5.1.1. Organic material must be removed from the vehicles prior to disinfecting to allow for proper effectiveness of the disinfecting agent.
5.1.2. A log of all vehicle cleaning and sanitization activity must be maintained.
5.1.3. As applicable, wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) consistent with disinfectant solution’s Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

5.2. Trucks / Supply Vehicles

5.2.1. Vehicle use overview:

5.2.1.1. The “clean” trucks handle sanitized materials / supplies only. The “soiled” or “dirty” trucks carry non-sanitized materials / supplies.
5.2.1.2. Animals may be transported in either truck. Sanitize the vehicle after transport of any animals.
5.2.1.3. Transport supplies, materials, and animals within the cargo compartment only and not within the cab compartment.
5.2.1.4. If the soiled truck needs to be used for a clean function, sanitize it at least 30 minutes prior to using. If the clean truck needs to be used for a soiled function, sanitize it immediately after use.

5.2.2. Cleaning and Sanitization of the Cargo Compartment:

5.2.2.1. Clean the interior cargo compartment of both vehicles after each delivery that has spillage of dirt, debris, feed or bedding by vacuuming or sweeping, followed by proper disposal of any spillage.
5.2.2.2. Sanitize the interior of the cargo compartment weekly or after transport of any animals, whichever is most frequent.
5.2.2.3. Sanitize the trucks by scrubbing and/or pressure spray washing all cargo compartment surfaces with a suitable disinfectant (e.g. bleach / water solution [1:10 to 1:128], or quaternary ammonium compound [e.g. PV-15 @ ½ oz / gallon of water]).

NOTE: Bleach solutions require at least 10 minutes of contact time for adequate disinfection prior to thoroughly rinsing with clean water. For other disinfectants follow manufacturer’s instructions for contact time.

5.2.2.4. Take care to prevent excessive amounts of the disinfectant solution from entering areas that house electrical components within the cargo compartment to prevent damage after repeated use.
5.2.2.5. During cold weather (below 32° F) if it is not possible to pressure spray wash because of water freezing, scrub surfaces with a sponge or sponge mop frequently dipped in disinfectant solution followed by the wiping of all
surfaces with another sponge or sponge mop frequently dipped in warm, clean water.

5.2.3. Cleaning of Non-cargo Compartment Surfaces:

5.2.3.1. Clean the vehicle exterior, and the interior cab so as to maintain a neat and professional appearance as needed.

5.2.3.2. Clean the vehicle exterior by pressure spray washing the entire exterior of both the cab and cargo compartments with a detergent / water solution mix followed by a thorough pressure spray rinsing with water.

5.2.3.3. If exterior surfaces have been contaminated with animal waste or tissues, scrub the exterior vehicle surfaces with a sponge or sponge mop soaked in a detergent / water solution so as to remove dirt and debris not dislodged by the pressure spray washing prior to rinsing.

5.2.3.4. Clean the cab compartment interior by vacuuming any dirt and debris, removing and cleaning floor mats, wiping appropriate surfaces with a regular household cleaner and shampooing of any dirty textile surfaces.

5.3. Vans

5.3.1. Transport animals in a transport container and place the container in cargo compartment.

5.3.2. Cover the cargo compartment surfaces with impermeable material (plastic, tarp, or cargo carrier) to allow for protection of the vehicle, particularly if carpeted.

5.3.3. After animal transport, clean the impermeable cover and spray or scrub all surfaces with a disinfectant solution.

NOTE: Bleach solutions require at least 10 minutes of contact time for adequate disinfection prior to thoroughly rinsing with clean water. For other disinfectants follow manufacturer’s instructions for contact time.

5.3.4. Best practice is to perform a monthly cleaning, or more frequently, if soiled or suspect infectious agents.

5.4. Horse Trailers

5.4.1. Clean out manure after every use.

5.4.2. Wash and disinfect the trailer immediately after transport of animals at risk of carrying infectious diseases (e.g., sick horses or horses from an outside herd). At a minimum, clean and disinfect transport compartment yearly.

5.5. Livestock Truck / Trailers (Teaching and Research Farms)

5.5.1. Clean out the manure after transporting animals.

5.5.2. Wash and disinfect the trailer immediately after transport of animals at risk of carrying infectious diseases (e.g., sick animals or animals from an outside herd). At a minimum, clean and disinfect transport compartment yearly.
5.6. Other Vehicles

5.6.1. If other vehicles, either university-owned or private vehicles, are used to transport animals, the surface beneath the animal carrier must be covered in plastic or other impermeable material (e.g. plastic tarp).

5.6.2. After transport, either discard the material, or sanitize it with a disinfectant.

5.7. Other Materials

5.7.1. The insulated grocery bags used for transport of rodents must be processed through the facility laundry.

6. PERSONNEL SAFETY

6.1. Medical Emergencies: CALL 911.

6.2. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Refer to the CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage for more information.

7. ANIMAL RELATED CONTINGENCIES

7.1. Post contact information for emergency assistance in a conspicuous location within the animal facility.

7.2. Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays:

7.2.1. Biomedical settings: CARE (pager 1-800-349-2456).

7.2.2. Farm animal settings: Ambulatory and Production Medicine Service at (607) 253-3140.

7.3. Non-emergency veterinary questions & requests for animal care, email CARE veterinary staff at care@cornell.edu.

8. REFERENCES

8.1. Cornell Laboratory Safety and Chemical Hygiene Plan:
https://sp.ehs.cornell.edu/lab-research-safety/laboratory-safety-manual/Pages/index.aspx

8.2. CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage:
http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/OHS.html

9. APPENDIX

9.1. None
10. HISTORY

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