ANIMAL TRANSPORT OUTSIDE ANIMAL FACILITIES

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The intent of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (ACUP) is to describe transportation and use of animals outside the animal facility and to ensure this transportation is conducted in a manner that is safe for the animal and the public. 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 anyone transporting or preparing animals for transport.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. This ACUP provides general guidelines for the transportation of animals using public access areas to include roadways and areas outside the animal facilities.

3.2. Transporting outside an animal facility must be described in the IACUC-approved animal use protocol.

3.3. Contact the Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE) at Cornell University by emailing care@cornell.edu for more information or for assistance.

4. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

4.1. Species appropriate animal transport enclosure

4.2. Climate controlled transport vehicle where applicable

4.3. Opaque material to cover the transport enclosure where applicable

5. PROCEDURE

NOTE: After transporting animals, the primary enclosure for the animal(s) must be sanitized as per ACUP 532 Cleaning and Sanitizing Equipment Used in the Transport of Animals.
5.1. Animal Transport Through Public Areas

5.1.1. Plan all transportation of animals to:

5.1.1.1. Minimize transit time
5.1.1.2. Reduce the risk of zoonoses and allergies
5.1.1.3. Prevent public exposure
5.1.1.4. Prevent escape
5.1.1.5. Protect the animals against contaminants and aversive conditions (extreme environmental conditions, physical injuries, etc.)

5.1.2. Provide food and a source of water when indicated (example: if the animal will remain in the transport container for several hours).

5.1.3. Avoid overcrowding cages. Use the same density requirement as for general housing.

5.1.4. Use appropriate carts or vehicles for animal transport containers that cannot be easily and safely carried by hand.

5.1.5. Use service elevators and corridors when available. Avoid using public elevators when possible.

5.1.6. Contain the movement of animals through public corridors to prevent the dispersal of allergens, fomites, and other particles and debris (for example: transport rodents in filter top caging or closed transport containers; place other small animals, such as rabbits, cats and dogs, in covered transport carriers). In addition, all clear cages must be covered with an opaque material or placed in an opaque container to prevent public exposure.

5.1.7. Ensure that the transport enclosure:

5.1.7.1. Is an appropriate size for the animals being transported;
5.1.7.2. Will not cause injury to the animals;
5.1.7.3. Contains the animals securely to prevent escape

5.1.8. Use double bags to transport small carcasses and appropriate carts or vehicles for large carcasses.

5.2. Pedestrian Transport on Campus

NOTE: Public buses, bicycles, motorcycles, etc., ARE NOT acceptable for transport of animals.

5.2.1. Small animals (e.g., mice) can be transported on campus without use of a transport vehicle under the following conditions:

5.2.1.1. The animals are not publicly visible;
5.2.1.2. Precautions are taken to assure the animals are not exposed to environmental stressors (e.g., temperatures that differ from the housing facility). This can be achieved by transporting only under mild climate conditions or placement of the animal enclosure within an insulated container.
5.3. Vehicular Transport

NOTE: Transporting animals in vehicles not specifically designated for animal transportation (e.g., personal or rented vehicles) is STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. Contact CARE for details concerning animal transport in vehicles for your specific case (species, location, associated hazards, duration, etc.).

5.3.1. Follow all applicable facility SOPs.
5.3.2. Provide the animal with ventilation to assure sufficient oxygen supply and waste gas exhaust.
5.3.3. Provide a transport temperature that is consistent with the animal’s normal housing temperature. If outdoor temperatures are not consistent with the animal’s housing temperature, the animal and its transport container must be placed in a temperature controlled space within the vehicle (e.g., not in the trunk).
5.3.4. Keep the vehicle clean and in good condition. Sanitize the transport vehicle, per ACUP 532 Cleaning and Sanitizing Materials Used in the Transport of Animals between transportation of animals of different health status. If a passenger vehicle is used, place plastic or a similar material on the surface under the transport container so as to minimize contamination and facilitate sanitization.
5.3.5. For large non-agricultural species (e.g., dogs), use a cargo van and assure that transport enclosures are secured to prevent movement.
5.3.6. For agricultural species, refer to applicable facility SOPs or protocol details.

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 afterworking hours and on weekends and holidays by calling the CARE (pager 1-800-349-2456).
7.3. Non-emergency veterinary questions and requests for animal care, email CARE veterinary staff at care@cornell.edu.

8. REFERENCES

8.3. 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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