

**Arizona State University  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
STANDARD INSTITUTIONAL GUIDELINE**

**OFF-CAMPUS TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY LABORATORY PERSONNEL**

- A. The *Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)* states “Careful planning for all types of transportation should occur to ensure animal safety and well-being. The process of transportation should provide an appropriate level of animal biosecurity ... while minimizing zoonotic risks, protecting against environmental extremes, avoiding overcrowding, providing for the animals’ physical, physiologic, or behavioral needs and comfort, and protecting the animals and personnel from physical trauma.”

The *Guide* further states that “Transportation of animals in private vehicles is discouraged because of potential animal biosecurity, safety, health, and liability risks for the animals, personnel, and institution.”

- B. Therefore, vertebrate animals used in research should preferentially be transported in a DACT vehicle purposed for transporting animals. However, there are situations where transportation by other university or private vehicles may be warranted.
- C. Transport of animals by laboratory personnel in non-DACT ASU vehicles or private vehicles must be approved by the IACUC either in the protocol or on a one-time basis.
1. In order to use a non-DACT vehicle for transporting vertebrate animals, the PI must read and sign the *Assurance to Abide by the Requirements for Transporting Live Animals*, and the IACUC must approve the request prior to any animal transport.
- D. Transportation-related stress is inevitable but can be minimized utilizing proper procedures as listed below.
1. The investigator must pre-arrange transport with appropriate animal care personnel if their support is needed at the facility of origin and/or the destination facility.
  2. All vehicles being used to transport animals must be in good working condition and have suitable airflow and functioning temperature control. The vehicle’s air-conditioning should be on whenever the outside temperature is above 76°F. During extreme heat or cold, the vehicle must be cooled or heated to an appropriate transport temperature (based on species, e.g., 65-75°F for laboratory rodents) prior to loading the animals.
  3. Animal containment should be appropriate for the species being transported.
    - a. Animal containers must provide ample space, bedding if appropriate, adequate biosecurity, and zoonoses and allergen containment. Standard rodent transport boxes, which meet these requirements and can be used for a variety of species, are obtainable from DACT.
    - b. Overcrowding must be avoided, as this can lead to overheating despite mild outdoor conditions.
    - c. Food and water should be provided if appropriate (e.g., Napa-Nectar or equivalent for laboratory rodents). However, water bottles or bowls should not

be provided while the vehicle is in motion as the movements associated with driving will lead to considerable leaking from the bottle. If the trip is long, it may require a midway stop to offer the animal(s) water while not in motion.

- d. Non-essential moveable objects (e.g., enrichment devices) should not be included in the container with the animal as movement of such objects during transport could result in injuries to the animals.
4. Animal containers must be positioned in the vehicle so that airflow into them is not blocked and the containers will not tip or slide.
5. Animal containers must be placed in the vehicle so that they are not in direct sunlight and thus vulnerable to considerable radiant heat gain.
6. Animals must not be left in the vehicle any longer than what is necessary to transport them to their destination. There should be no unnecessary stops during the transport. Stops for gasoline should only occur if the trip goes beyond the tank capacity of the vehicle.
7. If a vehicle malfunctions in transit, immediate actions must be taken to ensure the animal environment remains suitable. Completion of the animal transport should be prioritized over vehicle repair. For trips in the Phoenix metropolitan area, DACT staff is available to bring a second (rescue) vehicle to complete the animal transport. If in need of help from DACT, call the vet line (480-965-5510), which is manned 24 hrs/day. The investigator transporting the animals must provide the DACT representative with information regarding what is being transferred (species and number of cages), so that an appropriate rescue vehicle is chosen. While waiting for the support vehicle, the animal environment must be maintained as best as possible.

#### Additional Guidelines for Transport to or from Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI):

1. All rodents must be delivered to the St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center (SJHMC) loading dock, which is located just south of Earl Drive.
2. The container and the transportation procedures must comply with BNI's Guidelines for Animal Transport and Use in Clinical and Public Access Areas, which is appended below.
3. The BNI-ASU MRI Center contains several holding rooms that can be used for short-term housing of animals requiring serial images. To ensure space is available, housing arrangements must be made in advance with the Animal Care Program at SJHMC.

#### **BNI GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL TRANSPORT AND USE IN CLINICAL AND PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS**

This document contains information concerning animal transport through public access areas. Public access areas include roadway, and areas outside the animal facility. All personnel involved in animal care and use are required to follow this guideline to ensure that animal transport is conducted in a safe and appropriate manner. Investigators and their research associates are reminded that all transferring animals between investigators and/or protocols require completion of certain forms to assure

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regulatory compliance. Contact the veterinarian (ext. 64003) for detailed information regarding the required forms.

### **Animal Transport Through Public Access Areas**

All transport of animals should be planned to minimize transit time, reduce the risk of zoonoses, avoid the visibility of animals to the public, and protect the animals against physical trauma.

To reduce risks of zoonosis and injury, personnel not engaged in transporting an animal should not occupy the Vivarium-Neuroscience Research Center elevator when an animal is present. Personnel must not enter the elevator when an animal is present; they must exit when an individual transporting an animal enters the elevator.

The following guidelines must be adhered to when animals are transported through public areas:

### **Requirements for Transport Equipment**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Transport Equipment</b>
Cats, dogs, pigs, rabbits	Covered transport cages
Non-human primates	Covered primate transport carrier or restraint chair*
Rodents	Covered shoebox cage
Dead animals	Red durable plastic bag**

\*Special requirements for the non-human primate transport equipment:

- prevent any inadvertent contact (grabbing, reaching, touching) between the animal and personnel;
- enclosure needs to be constructed strong enough to contain the animals securely;
- interior must not have any sharp points or edges;
- provide adequate ventilation by having ventilation openings located on at least two opposite walls;
- provide sufficient space to allow the animal to turn around freely in a normal manner or to sit in an upright position without its head touching the top of the enclosure.

\*\* If the animals were used in research involving biohazardous materials, follow the disposition procedures as recommended by the Biohazard Committee.