



## *Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guidelines and Policies*

May 16, 2007

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### **GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTING ANIMALS ON CAMPUS**

For experimental procedures, it is often necessary to move animals from their housing space in the Biological Resource Facility (BRF) to a laboratory setting. In some cases, animals may need to be returned to the BRF (e.g. after recovery from surgery, after a non-surgical procedure that is done in a lab facility outside of the BRF). In other cases, animals may be moved to a laboratory for euthanasia and subsequent tissue harvesting and only the cages will be returned to the BRF. It is important that the PI understand that animals cannot be housed outside the centralized animal facilities of the BRF for greater than 12 hours without prior approval from the IACUC.

In all cases when animals must be transported on campus, investigators should follow these guidelines:

1. Animals should be transported over the most expeditious route available utilizing the least congested area. Public passenger elevators should be avoided when, and if, possible (Freight Elevators are preferred). Hallways are public and as such any movement of animals to a lab in these areas should be discrete and unobtrusive.
2. Do not leave animals unattended outside of the centralized facilities! For example, animals should never be left on a cart in the hallway outside the laboratory.
3. To reduce the public's/animal's exposure to health problems and allergens and to reduce stress to the animals, cages must be covered during transport.
  - Use filter topped cages if possible for transportation
  - Drape the cage/cart to ensure animals and cages are shielded from public view.
  - Avoid stacking cages, since that can decrease air circulation and lead to instability on the cart.
4. Minimize noise and vibration (and thus stress to the animals) by using a cart with wheels in good repair. The use of "soft" wheels is recommended.
5. Return all caging to the BRF at the end of experimental procedures (dirty side cage wash area only). DO NOT place cages in the hallways outside of the laboratories.

### **Transporting Live or Dead Animals Containing Hazardous Materials**

Transportation of hazardous materials in general poses special problems, but this is significantly amplified (e.g. potential spread through excreta) when the material is contained in an animal. It is therefore important that appropriate precautions are incorporated both during the transport to the laboratory and back to the BRF area. Due to complexity of these requirements, the investigators planning to transport live animals containing radioactive materials, biohazards (e.g. pathogens or toxic chemicals) from one location to another must contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety for specific guidance. In most cases, the PI will need to written SOPs for this purpose that are approved by the IACUC and EHS.