

## GUIDELINES ON ANIMAL TRANSPORT AND USE IN CLINICAL AND PUBLIC AREAS

This document contains information concerning animal transport through public access areas. Public access areas include roadways, and areas outside the animal facilities. 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 and/or transporting animals between institutions, facilities, investigators, or protocols requires completion of certain forms to assure regulatory compliance and to maintain the colony health status. Contact the Laboratory Animals Centre office (ext. 3291) for detailed information regarding the required forms.

### Animal Transport Through Public Access Areas

All transportation 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. Use service elevators when available; this includes the transportation of empty carriers, restraint chairs, transport cages, shoebox cages, etc. Follow the guidelines when animals are transported through public areas:

### Requirements for Transport Equipment

Species	Transport Equipment
Cats, dogs, pigs	Covered large animal transport cage
Non-human primates	Covered primate transport carrier or restraint chair <sup>1</sup>
Rabbits	Covered transport cage
Rodents	Covered transport cage or shoebox cage <sup>2</sup>
Sheep	Filtered transport cage
Dead animals	Opaque durable plastic bag of appropriate size <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>Please note that isolation gowns and biohazard bags are NOT ACCEPTABLE for covering rodent cages. If rodents are coming from non-barrier areas, please place cages in an opaque plastic bag or cover with an opaque cloth drape. If rodents are coming from a barrier-maintained area, they MUST be placed into an opaque plastic bag before they are taken from the room in which they are housed.

<sup>3</sup>Use double bags to transport dead animals. If the animals were used in research involving biohazardous materials, follow the [disposition procedures](#) as recommended by [the Office of Safety, Health and Environment \(OSHE\)](#) (ext. 5725 ).

### **Requirements for Transport Vehicles**

Transporting animals in vehicles not specifically designated for animal transportation (e.g. personal or rented vehicles) is strongly discouraged. Contact the Laboratory Animals Centre (ext. 3291) for details concerning animal transport in vehicles. The following contains general guidelines when a commercial transport company is not used:

- The cargo space must be constructed and maintained in a manner that protects the health and well-being of the animals, including precluding the entry of exhaust fumes;
- The animal cargo space must have a supply of air that is sufficient for the normal breathing of all animals;
- The air supply to the animal cargo space shall not be shared with the air supply of the operator(s) to minimize the transmission of zoonotic agents by aerosol;
- The ambient temperature of the vehicle must be maintained between 45°F and 85°F;
- It is required to sanitize the transport vehicle after transportation of the animals; if a passenger vehicle is used, place plastic or similar material on the floor under the transport cage to minimize contamination;
- For transporting large species of animals, a cargo van is preferred provided the transport cages can be adequately secured to prevent movement.

## Animal Use in Human Clinical Areas

When animal procedures must be performed in human clinical areas (e.g., MRI or PET Clinics):

- Patients and non-essential employees must not be present;
- Include employees participating in the procedure involving hands-on contact with live animals in the Chancellor's Animal Research Committee approved protocol;
- Close door and interior window shades in the clinical room to avoid view and/or intrusion of the conduct of the procedures;
- After procedures have been performed thoroughly clean and disinfect countertops, floors, equipment, and other areas of the procedure room where animals were used;
- Comply with applicable laws concerning medical waste disposal and protection of the environment and pollution control to dispose animal waste, trash, and debris.

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