IACUC GUIDELINE

Animal Transport Outside Animal Facilities

SOP #515

IACUC Approval Date: June 27, 2016

1. Purpose:

The intent of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (SOP) 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. The AV may be consulted for emergency or temporary deviation; any permanent deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its implementation.

2. Scope:

This SOP is intended for anyone transporting or preparing animals for transport. This SOP provides general guidelines for the transportation of animals using public access areas to include roadways and areas outside the animal facilities. Transporting outside an animal facility must be described in the IACUC-approved animal use protocol. Contact Research Compliance at researchcompliance@tamuc.edu for more information or for assistance.

3. Materials:

Species appropriate animal transport enclosure.
Climate controlled transport vehicle where applicable.
Opaque material to cover the transport enclosure where applicable.

4. Responsibilities:

A. The University Attending Veterinarian (AV) oversees all aspects of animal health and husbandry and is assisted by program faculty and staff. In any case of animal welfare negligence, the AV and his designees have the authority to intervene immediately.

B. Texas A&M-Commerce IO, Veterinary Care Team and IACUC ensure provision of supplemental husbandry and programmatic oversight, and assist the AV in enforcing and implementing the veterinary care program.

C. Texas A&M-Commerce faculty and staff ensure implementation of all procedures including husbandry, documentation, student oversight, and IACUC and AV regulator compliance.

D. Texas A&M-Commerce faculty and staff ensure compliance with this SOP and all other applicable A&M-Commerce IACUC and AV regulations, SOPs, guidance, and directives.
5. Procedures:

**NOTE:** All animal transports outside animal facilities must be approved by the AV or AV designees. After transporting animals, the primary enclosure for the animal(s) and transport vehicle must be cleaned and / or sanitized as per SOP 511 Cleaning and Sanitizing Equipment Used in the Transport of Animals.

**Animal Transport Through Public Areas**

Plan all transportation of animals to:

- Minimize transit time
- Reduce the risk of zoonoses and allergies
- Prevent public exposure
- Prevent escape
- Protect the animals against contaminants and aversive conditions (extreme environmental conditions, physical injuries, etc.)
- Minimize introduction of animal pathogens into the animal facility or herd

A. Provide food and a source of water when indicated (examples: if the animal(s) will remain in the transport container for more than 6 hours, or shorter if the animal(s) is/are sick or the temperature is above 80 degrees F).

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

C. Species compatibility should be taken into account when multiple species will be transported.

D. Use appropriate carts or vehicles for animal transport containers, if the transport containers cannot be easily and safely carried by hand.

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

F. 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.

G. Ensure that the transport enclosure:
   - Is an appropriate size for the animals being transported
   - Will not cause injury to the animals
   - Contains the animals securely to prevent escape
   - Transport containers should be secured to carts or vehicles such that they cannot overturn, to minimize escape of, or injury to animals.

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

**Pedestrian Transport on Campus**

**NOTE:** Public buses, bicycles, motorcycles, etc., are not acceptable for transport of animals.

I. Small animals (e.g., mice) can be transported on campus without use of a transport vehicle under the following conditions:
   - The animals are not publicly visible
   - 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.

- Immunocompromised animals may NOT be transported in this fashion.

**Vehicular Transport**

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

J. Follow all applicable facility SOPs.

K. Provide the animal with ventilation to assure sufficient oxygen supply and waste gas exhaust.

L. 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).

M. Keep the vehicle clean and in good condition. Sanitize the transport vehicle, per SOP 511 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.

N. For large non-agricultural species (e.g., dogs), use a cargo van and assure that transport enclosures are secured to prevent movement.

O. For agricultural species, refer to applicable facility SOPs or protocol details.

P. Animals must always be safely restrained or secured with devices or equipment designed for that purpose and species, and where necessary (i.e. small or fragile animals) transported within a secondary container that is secured appropriately within the vehicle.

Q. Animals should not be transported together with any bedding, feed, equipment or materials other than with those required to achieve the animal transportation and immediate transport-associated care.

6. **Personnel Safety**

R. Medical Emergencies: CALL 911.

S. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Contact Research Compliance for Occupational Health and Safety information.

7. **Animal Related Contingencies**

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

U. Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays by calling the AV.

V. Non-emergency veterinary questions & requests for animal care, email Texas A&M-Commerce Research Compliance at researchcompliance@tamuc.edu.
8. References

- SOP 511 Cleaning and Sanitizing Materials Used in the Transport of Animals
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition. Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, Washington, DC. 2011:
  http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12910&page=1

9. History

Version 01
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