

## Guidelines for the Transportation of Animals on The University of Texas at Austin Campus

The University of Texas at Austin  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

*These guidelines have been written to assist faculty, staff, and students in performing vertebrate animal procedures in a humane manner and complying with pertinent regulatory requirements. Under some circumstances deviations from these procedures may be indicated but such variances must be approved in advance by the IACUC.*

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The following are requirements for the transportation of animals from holding facilities to laboratory locations (in the same building or elsewhere on campus) for experimental use and their subsequent return. **All transportation must be described in the IACUC approved protocol.** PLEASE NOTE: Animals cannot be housed outside of their normal holding location for greater than twelve (12) hours without the specific approval of the IACUC.

1. Transport animals DIRECTLY from their holding room to the laboratory use location. Assure that all lids, tops, or doors in the cage or transport enclosure are closed and secure.
2. If a cart is used, minimize noise and vibration by using a cart with wheels in good repair. Avoid stacking cages, since it can decrease air circulation and can lead to instability on the cart. Place cages on second and/or lower tiers of cart, whenever possible, which leaves top shelf to support the weight of the drape or cover.
3. Drape cages, carts or carriers with an opaque sheet or otherwise ensure animals and cages are shielded from public view. If paper drapes are used, they should be discarded and replaced when soiled. Cloth drapes should be laundered on a regular basis. Care must be taken to assure appropriate ventilation. Plastic sheeting must be used carefully to assure appropriate ventilation. Placing non-aquatic animals within plastic bags is not appropriate.
4. Do not leave animals unattended during transport.
5. Return all caging, dirty bedding, and discarded carcasses to an appropriate location at the end of experimental procedures.
6. Transport vehicles and carts must be cleaned and sanitized between uses to prevent cross-contamination that may result in infectious disease transmission.
7. Transportation of large mammals (or large numbers of rodents) should be discussed with the ARC Facilities Manager to determine the appropriate procedures. The ARC must also be contacted to approve any requests for use of motor vehicles to transport animals to or from the centralized facilities.
8. Transportation of hazardous animals (venomous, radioactive, or potentially excreting chemical or biological hazards) must be discussed with the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) to assure safety.

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