Policy # 33: INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) POLICY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to describe approved methods for transportation of animals by Clemson University.

Policy Statement: 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.

All animal transportation must be performed by qualified personnel to include: Office of Animal Resources (OAR) personnel, personnel listed on the IACUC approved Animal Use Protocol (AUP), or by Clemson farm personnel.

Vehicles appropriate for animal transport must be used. Public transportation (e.g. shuttle buses, intercampus buses, etc.), and the use of bicycles, motorcycles or motor scooters are not acceptable or permitted. Follow facility-specific SOPs and applicable local, state, and federal regulations for transportation of animals. Never leave animals unattended.

Animal transportation may be intrainstitutional, interinstitutional or between a commercial or non-commercial source and a research facility. Movement of animals within or between sites or institutions should be planned and coordinated by responsible and well-trained persons at the sending and receiving sites to minimize animal transit time or delays in receipt. Defining and delegating this responsibility to the appropriate persons, who are knowledgeable about the needs of the species being shipped, will help ensure effective communication and planning of animal transport.

For non-commercial sources of animals in particular, the veterinarian or the veterinarian’s designee must review the health status and other housing and husbandry requirements prior to authorizing shipment of animals. This will ensure that effective quarantine practices are implemented for incoming animals as well as addressing any special requirements needed to ensure animal well-being.

Transportation between Clemson animal facilities requires the approval of the facility managers and Principal Investigators (PIs) or designees. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the IACUC. For wildlife, transportation may occur between the capture site and field or main campus holding facilities. The method of transportation must be described in detail in the AUP.

The Godley-Snell Research Center (GSRC) is the only facility on the main campus approved by the IACUC to house mammals. In general, there is no reason to transport mammals from the GSRC to other locations on campus. Should it become necessary to transport mammals from GSRC to another location on campus, the transport must be described in an IACUC approved AUP.

Transport of Rodents and Other Small Mammals
- Carriers are defined as International Air Transport Association approved pet carriers
- Cages typically refer to mouse, rat, or guinea pig polycarbonate-type cages
- A maximum of one cage or carrier per person may be hand carried
• Larger numbers of cages or carriers must be transported on a wheeled cart or may be transported in a GSRC climate controlled truck
• Do not stack cages or carriers
• Use micro-isolator tops and always check tops of cages and doors of carriers to make certain they are secured before exiting any building
• To exit the animal housing facility, the cages/carriers must be
  o Covered using a clean breathable drape or similar material, or
  o Placed in a breathable, opaque, ventilated container
• Principal Investigators moving rodents between Institutes my do so in accordance with RS/SOP 100-18-XX – Transportation of Rodents in Single Compartment Vehicles
• Transport to other Institutes may also be arranged through the OAR

Transport of Amphibians and Reptiles
• These species are typically captured in the wild and returned to investigator labs on the main campus
• Transport cages may consist of secure “Tupperware” or similar plastic containers with lids that fasten securely. Bedding material from the local environment or a wet (paper) towel can be placed on the bottom to add moisture
• Be sure to maintain temperature and moisture within acceptable limits
• Other types of transport are acceptable such as cloth bags and amphibians may be transported in plastic bags, as long as the bags are securely closed. For added security, bags may be placed into a secondary container with a secure lid
• Transporting snakes to and from the GSRC housing room will be in accordance with GSRC SOP 700-03-XX

Transport of Fish
• These species are often captured in the wild and returned to investigator labs on the main campus, but may also be purchased from commercial vendors
• Fish transport typically occurs between buildings or from the site of capture back to the investigator laboratory on the main campus
• Care must be taken to ensure provision of proper temperature and aeration
• Buckets, ice chests or other vessels that ensure a secure environment are all appropriate
• When moving fish between buildings or rooms, adults are transported in tanks or buckets containing system water using a rolling cart. Larvae or embryos are transported in petri dishes with system water and using secondary containment, such as a plastic storage container on a rolling cart.

Transport of farm animals
• Transportation of farm animals will be by qualified farm personnel using IACUC approved livestock trailers or other approved transport caging
• A valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must be provided by a federally accredited veterinarian when crossing state lines

References

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals [the Guide]
Guide for the Care and Use of Agriculture Animals in Research and Teaching
Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations