

Clemson University

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Policy Number: 3.13

Policy Title: The Transportation of Animals

Section 1: Purpose

The following policy provides guidance on the transport of vertebrate animals for research, teaching, testing, and demonstration purposes.

Section 2: Scope

This policy applies to all vertebrate animal activities that are covered by an Animal Use Protocol (AUP).

Section 3: Policy

General Considerations for Animal Transport

- To maintain animal and personnel wellbeing and safety during transport, the following must be considered:
 - An appropriate level of biosecurity must be maintained.
 - Zoonotic risk must be minimized.
 - Protection from environmental extremes must be provided.
 - Overcrowding must not occur.
 - The animal's physical, physiologic, and behavioral needs must be met.
 - Protection from physical trauma to animals and personnel must be provided, especially in the transport of livestock.
- All animal transportation must be performed by qualified personnel. This includes Office of Animal Resources (OAR) personnel, personnel listed on the 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 while in transit.
- The time an animal is in transit should be minimized to the extent possible.
- The receiving party should be notified of transit progress to avoid delays in the intake process.
- 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.
- Transportation methods must be described in the animal use protocol of animals being transported.

Transport of Rodents and Small Mammals

- Rodents or small mammals must be transported in cages or carriers.
 - 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 to locations on campus.
- Multiple cages or carriers must be transported on a wheeled cart or transported in a GSRC climate controlled vehicle.
- Cages or carriers must not be stacked while on carts or in vehicles.
- Micro-isolator tops should be used when possible to minimize contamination.
- Tops of cages and doors of carriers must be checked to ensure they are securely closed before exiting the animal housing area.
- Before exiting the facility, the cages or carriers must be covered using a clean breathable drape or similar material or placed in a breathable, opaque, ventilated container.
- Principal Investigators moving rodents between institutes may 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 by OAR personnel.

Transport of Amphibians and Reptiles

- Transport containment methods must be appropriate for the species. Example containment includes “Tupperware” or similar plastic containers with lids that fasten securely or cloth or plastic bags that are securely closed.
- Bedding material from the local environment can be added to provide enrichment.
- Temperature and moisture levels must be maintained within acceptable limits for the species. A wet paper towel may be placed on the bottom to add moisture.
- Facilities or Principal Investigators may have specific SOPs that should be followed regarding animal transport.

Transport of Fish

- Proper temperature and aeration should be maintained during transportation.
- Buckets, ice chests or other vessels that ensure a secure environment are appropriate as containment during transportation.
- Adult fish being transported between rooms within a facility or to another facility within walking distance should be moved using tanks filled with system water that are covered with a secure lid and a rolling a cart.

- Embryos or larvae should be transported in petri dishes with system water and using secondary containment, such as a plastic storage container.

Transport of farm animals

- Farm animals will be transported by qualified farm personnel using methods appropriate for the species.
- Contact the University Veterinarian for health and export requirements prior to transporting livestock.