

MU IACUC ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

The Department of Transportation (DOT), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) have established strict guidelines for transport of all live animals. As a shipper/transporter you are responsible for taking all the necessary precautions to ensure the well being of animals.

Prerequisite

There are certain requirements that apply to all transportation of live animals regardless of the final destination. The following is a summary of the more important requirements:

- Be an authorized user under a currently active, IACUC approved protocol.
- Be knowledgeable about the transportation guidelines for research animals.
- Be familiar with the appropriate provisions of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
- For transport of rabbits be familiar with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 9, Chapter 1, Part 3-Standards, Subpart C, sections 3.61-3.66.

Cages and other shipping containers must meet the minimum standard for size, ventilation, strength, sanitation and design for safe handling. Some transportation-related stress is inevitable, but it can be minimized by attention to those factors (contact the ARC for assistance).

General Transportation Requirements

The IACUC Chair (or designee) is:

- Responsible for oversight of these animal transportation guidelines, and may grant exceptions when it is considered in the best interest of the animal(s).

The IACUC will resolve conflicts regarding animal transportation issues.

The PI or ARC staff will plan all transportation of animals, including intra-institutional transportation, to:

- Minimize transit time and the risk of zoonoses.
- Protect against environmental extremes.
- Avoid overcrowding.
- Provide food and water/gel packs when indicated.
- Protect against physical trauma.

- Physically separate the animals by species to prevent interspecies disease transmission, and to eliminate anxiety and possible physiological and behavioral changes due to interspecies conflict.
- Avoid temperature extremes when animals are transported; special precautions or postponements are required when temperatures are below 45⁰ F or above 85⁰ F. At these temperatures, the welfare of the animals is jeopardized.
- Exercise care in handling enclosures used to transport live animals. Enclosures must not be tossed, dropped, needlessly tilted, stacked in a manner which may reasonably be expected to result in their falling, or handled in any manner which may cause physical trauma or stress to the animals.
- Contact the MU consulting veterinarian or ARC staff to verify that the animals removed from the housing areas can be returned. This is especially important for rodents, as rodents removed from Marquette's housing facility and taken to another institution's laboratory cannot return to MU until a quarantine room is established.
- If animal(s) will not be returned, notify the ARC staff the day the animal(s) are removed.
- Rats, mice and rabbits may be transported using your personal vehicle; however, you must complete the Transportation Check-Off Sheet for Rats, Mice and Rabbits and return it to the ORC office or via campus mail to Office of Research Compliance (attention ARC) before transit.
- Please contact ARC staff for animal transportation assistance. Animals cannot be transported on MU shuttles, trucks or buses, public transportation or taxi cabs.

Specific Transportation Requirements

Within MU Campus

- Animals can only be transported to facilities (e.g. laboratories, study areas) outside of the housing facility for which the Principal Investigator has IACUC approval. Please note that housing rats or mice in your lab for more than 24 hours requires special permission from the IACUC.
- Transportation of animals must be done in a direct and timely manner, avoiding public areas if and when possible.
- The hallways are public and as such any movement of animals to a lab in these areas should be discrete and unobtrusive. Opaque or shielded transportation containers are recommended to reduce animal stress.
- Rodents may be carried or transported in private vehicles between buildings on the MU campus in a cage using a filter-top. The cages should be placed in a secondary container with a cover such as a breathable bag or box.

- Rabbits may be carried or transported in private vehicles between buildings on the MU campus in appropriate carrying devices (Dog, cat carriers or rat cages with a micro-isolator). See Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 9, Chapter 1, Part 3-Standards, Subpart C, section 3.61.
- Do not place cages in the hallways outside of the laboratories. This practice may result in spread of disease to the healthy rodent populations and staff. Return all empty cages to the ARC facility. Help reduce higher facility costs by returning all cages to the animal facility.

Between MU and Institutions in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area

At times it is necessary to transport animals between MU and external facilities in the Milwaukee area. In these instances the following requirements apply:

- An approved outside vendor must be used for the movement of all animals between institutions except for mice, rats, birds, rabbits and fish. The transportation must be pre-approved by the IACUC, and described in the approved protocol addressing the mode of transportation, the number of animals transported, and the frequency of transportation.
- Rats, mice and rabbits may be transported using your personal vehicle; however, you must fill out the *Transportation Check-Off Sheet for Rats, Mice and Rabbits* and return it via campus mail to Office of Research Compliance (attention ARC) before transit.
- Animals may NOT be transported on any MU shuttles/buses, any form of public transportation, or taxi cabs.
- There must be full coordination between animal facility supervisors in charged of receiving and sending animals. This is important to ensure that animals are received properly and that appropriate facilities are available for housing.
- Newly transported animals should be given adequate time for physiologic, psychologic, and nutritional stabilization before their use. The length of time for stabilization will depend on the type and duration of animal transportation, the species involved, and the intended use of the animals.

Between MU and Institutions located outside the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area

Transfer of animals to locations outside the Milwaukee Metropolitan area is subject to additional requirements, the extent of which depends on the location, as well as policies of, the receiving institution.

The complexity of shipping requirements changes significantly depending on:

- The location of the receiving institution. For example, shipping outside the USA requires USDA/APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) certificate of veterinary inspection. Some States have specific quarantine requirements for some species.
- Transportation method. For example, the airlines established company policy for the proper handling of the animals they transport.

- It is strongly recommended that ARC staff be contacted as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements.

Health Assurance Information

- Facilities receiving animals typically require health assurance and type of care information before they will accept the animals.
- To facilitate the export of animals from MU, the ARC requests that investigators contact the ARC staff directly.

Confirming the Shipment

- The investigator will contact the receiving institution to provide the necessary health assurance and care information. This information may be obtained from the ARC.
- Once the receiving institution agrees to accept the animals, the investigator will confirm the shipping address. For species requiring USDA Health Certificates, the ARC will issue the Certificate for shipment.

Shipping the Animals

- The ARC will assist the investigator in making shipping arrangements.
- The ARC has contact information for commercial shipping firms that handle animals, shipping crates, and miscellaneous items such as transport gel.
- To ensure the safety and well being of the animals, the ARC requires that animals not be shipped after Wednesday of a normal business week. Shipping later in the week may result in animals being left unattended over a weekend in an airport cargo containment facility.

Transporting Live or Dead Animals Containing Hazardous Materials

Transportation of hazardous materials in general poses special problems. This is significantly amplified (e.g. potential spread through excreta) when the material is contained in an animal. It is therefore important that appropriate precautions are incorporated both during the animal transportation and after animal arrival at the end destination. Due to complexity of these requirements, investigators planning to transport live animals containing radioactive materials or genetically modified organisms must contact Ms. Melissa Lauritch (414-288-6249). For all other hazards please call Mr. Dennis Daye (414-288-8411).