

Policies and Procedures

SECTION: IACUC	NUMBER: 7.27			
CHAPTER: Miscellaneous Experimental Animal Use Policies	ISSUED: 12/18/15	REV. A: 8/2019	REV. B:	REV. C:
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Purpose

Transportation of research or teaching animals intra-institutionally, inter-institutionally and between commercial and noncommercial sources and a research facility is an important component of research. This policy establishes standards for the transportation of animals that ensure animal welfare and compliance and provide for the safety and wellbeing of personnel that may be present in areas where the animals are transported. Human health concerns include exposure to potential allergens/zoonoses of animal origin, microorganisms, chemicals or radioactive materials. To ensure personnel/public and animal safety/well-being, the use of animals in a public environment requires adherence to procedures to minimize the potential for interaction between animals and the personnel/public (including staff, volunteers, students and visitors). The policy has been developed to ensure compliance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Animals, 2010, 8th Edition, and The Animal Welfare Act and Regulations.

The IACUC maintains oversight for all procedures conducted on research animals in public areas ensuring compliance with applicable regulations. Failure to solicit the involvement, approval, and assistance of appropriate organizational entities may result in suspension of the privileges for animal use in Creighton labs for research purposes.

Responsibility

The major responsibility for animal protection and monitoring during and after a procedure lies with the Principal Investigator (PI). Any instance in which a PI or staff member fails to provide veterinary care in accordance with this Policy is considered an infraction by the Creighton University IACUC and may result in suspension of a protocol and/or the use of data generated as a result of the study. All individuals involved in the transport of an animal must be listed on the approved IACUC protocol or be a member of the ARF staff. This policy applies to any Creighton University investigator, co-investigator, post-doc/fellow, technician, graduate student, undergraduate student or visiting scientist who are involved in animal procedures. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that all individuals involved in a procedure on an animal are aware of their duties and responsibilities, the appropriate individuals who should be contacted if problems arise during or after a procedure, and that all individuals read and understand this policy.

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Application

General Guidelines

For the purpose of this policy, transport is defined as removing an animal from its primary housing room and relocating to another room/laboratory (intra-institutionally) or facility (inter-institutionally) and receiving or shipping animals to a commercial or non-commercial source. Movement of animals within an animal housing room or laboratory must provide for the health and welfare of the animals. This policy does not apply to privately owned animals.

Any hallway, corridor or area other than the 6th floor ARF hallway is deemed public for the purpose of this policy.

All methods of animal transport must provide for the health and welfare of the animals.

Never leave animals alone/unattended outside of the secured animal housing facility or laboratory.

Animals may never be transported in a privately-owned vehicle or by any mode of public transportation.

Commercial shippers are to be used when appropriate, this must be arranged with the ARF Manager. (See ARF Policy 11.0 Extramural Shipping)

USDA regulations must be followed when transporting animal species covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Transportation must also comply with local and state laws and regulations.

Transportation time should be minimized.

Temperature must be monitored to remain within healthy parameters for the species being transported. In cases of extreme temperatures, animal transport may be detrimental to animal well-being and may not be possible unless temperature-controlled transport is possible.

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Cages or enclosures used for transportation and/or shipping are to meet minimum standards for size, ventilation, strength, sanitation, and designed for safe handling and stress reduction for the species to be transported.

Cages/enclosures must be secured to remain upright and safe during transport.

Animals must not be transported with any other animal, substance or device that may potentially cause injury to the animal being transported.

Animals must be mentally alert and fully mobile during transport. If movement of sedated or anesthetized animals is required this must be described and approved in the appropriate IACUC protocol. Sedated or anesthetized animals require continuous monitoring during transport.

Only routes that minimize the potential for public contact with animals should be utilized. The freight elevator should be used whenever possible. Animals will not be transported through patient areas.

ARF Staff/Attending Veterinarian must be contacted to ensure appropriate intra-institutional transport of non-rodent animals (other than aquatic/amphibian species)

Intra-Institutional Transport of Rodents

Animal transport from the ARF to and from Creighton labs must be approved in the IACUC protocol.

Live animals may only be hand carried or transported by cart if the animal stays within buildings contiguous with the ARF.

If a live animal must leave the interior of any building on the Creighton University Campus, then a temperature controlled, and cleanable Creighton University vehicle must be used that has been appropriately inspected by the IACUC and USDA and approved as an animal transport vehicle. ARF staff must transport these animals and be given 48 hours' notice prior to needed transport. If the PI and their staff desire to transport animals themselves using an approved Creighton University vehicle, they must complete Creighton University Vehicle Driver Training which can be arranged by contacting Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).

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Rodents must be transported in either shoebox cages or filter-top ventilated rack cages. If animals must leave the interior of any building, they must be transported in disposable secure shipping crates provided by the ARF.

Cage tops must be left in place during transport.

A maximum of 2 cages per person may be hand carried. Larger numbers of cages should be transported using a cart. Cages may not be stacked more than 2 high. It is preferable to utilize a cart that has a lip to prevent movement of cages during transport.

To exit the ARF, the transport cages must be concealed from external view by a breathable opaque material (drape) or placed in a breathable, opaque, ventilated container.

The transportation cart, including the casters, must be sanitized with an approved disinfectant after leaving the ARF and before returning to the ARF.

Unless approval has been granted in the IACUC protocol, all animals must be returned to the facility daily. Animals returned to the facility must be housed in the communal animal room.

Pups must not be separated from their mothers for more than one hour.

If rodents will be held in a transport container for longer than 4 hours, food and a source of water must be provided.

Transport of Aquatic Species and Amphibians

Intra-Institutional Transport

Animals may be hand carried in tanks with a secure lid. Multiple tanks covered with secured lids may be transported using a cart.

Inter-Institutional Transport

Special considerations are required for transportation in an aqueous or sufficiently moist environment. Consultation with ARF staff/Attending Veterinarian is required.

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Zebrafish should be shipped in low densities (5 fish/Liter), fish should be fasted for 24-36 hours prior to transport. Containers should have a volume of air that is 3-4 times the volume of water. Maintenance of stable water temperatures is critical. Temperature of transport water should be buffered using styrofoam shipping boxes, including extra bags of water and possibly supplemental heat packs.

Additional requirements can be obtained by contacting the ARF Staff/Attending Veterinarian.

Inter-Institutional Transportation

Prior approval for transportation and transfer of animals between institutions must be obtained from the Attending Veterinarian and/or their designee. Additional requirements apply. Refer to Animal Resource Facility Extramural Requirements Policy 11.0 for more information.

Movement of animals that have been infected with an agent that requires IBC approval requires that the receiving entity has IBC approval for that agent.

In some cases, IACUC approval will also be needed.

In cases where animal transport will cross international or state boundaries additional statutes and requirements may apply and must be followed.

Please contact the ARF Manager or Attending Veterinarian for details on how to arrange movement of your animals.

Transporting Live or Dead Animals Containing Radioactive Isotopes

Investigators planning to transport live or dead animals containing radioactive isotopes must consult with the Radiation Safety Office for specific guidance.

Transporting Live or Dead Animals Treated with Animal or Human Pathogens, Toxins or Carcinogens

Investigators planning to transport live or dead animals treated with animal or human pathogens, toxins or carcinogens must consult with ARF Staff/Attending Veterinarian, EH&S and the Institutional Biosafety Committee for specific guidance.

Field Study Transport

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Transportation of wild caught animals between field sites or to/from Creighton University must be described in an approved IACUC protocol. The transport container must protect both the animal and personnel and be escape proof. All applicable permits and licenses must be obtained. Transport must comply with all applicable regulations. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Attending Veterinarian must be consulted at a minimum.

References:

1. The Guide, 8th Edition, Pg. 106-109
2. Occupational Health and Safety of Personnel; “The OHSP must be consistent with federal, state, and local regulations and should focus on maintaining a safe and healthy workplace (Gonder 2002’; Newcomer 2002; OSHA 1998a).”
2. Animal Welfare Act Animal Welfare Regulations. <https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>.
3. Harper, C, Lawrence, C. (2011). *The Laboratory Zebrafish*. Florida: CRC Press.
- 4.NIH Animal Transportation Guidelines.https://oacu.oir.nih.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/arac-guidelines/b1a_ratnent_transport_26jun2019.pdf