



**Duke University  
Animal Care & Use Program  
Policy**

**ANIMAL TRANSPORT (NON-PATIENT CARE AREAS)**

**PERFORMANCE STANDARD:** Animals will be transported in a manner that prevents injury, discourages observation by the public, and protects the environment of the caging system.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. This Policy provides guidance on how to safely and effectively transport animals.
2. Transporting animals from one location to another can be stressful to laboratory animals and can increase the potential for disease transmission or injury. The ILAR Guide states that transportation “should be planned to minimize transit time and the risk of zoonoses, protect against environmental extremes, avoid overcrowding, provide food and water when indicated, and protect against physical trauma.”
3. The GSRB II, CCIF, LSRC, TEMP Building, and the Blue Zone of the Vivarium are restricted facilities, designed and managed to protect animals from infectious diseases. Other Duke animal holding facilities are ‘conventional’ facilities. Access to conventional facilities is not as tightly controlled as that to barrier facilities. Animals that exit the GSRB II, CCIF, and LSRC, TEMP Building, and the Blue Zone of the Vivarium facilities may not return to these facilities and will be housed in conventional facilities.
4. Exceptions for special experimental requirements may be granted by the Director, Division of Laboratory Animal Resources.
5. Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Director, Office of Animal Welfare Assurance.

**ROLES:** Any individual transporting animals: Provide for the safe and protected transport of animals.

**PROTECTION POSTURES REQUIRED:** Sufficient Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) to assure health and well being of personnel and to match the PPE requirements of the most stringent facility being accessed.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICIES:**

1. General Policies:
  - a. Cages used for transport should limit exposure to allergens, waste products, or odors, while providing sufficient air for normal respiration. Note: A normal mouse or rat cage (with bedding) can be tightly closed and the animals will have sufficient air for transport that does not exceed 30 minutes.
  - b. Normal space requirements will provided during transport, unless modification is approved by the Director, DLAR or his designee.

- c. All animals transported within the University must be transported in a species appropriate container. The container must be sanitizable or disposable and must have no floor openings or crevices that may injure the animal.
  - d. Live animals should not remain outside of approved housing facilities for more than 12 hours unless specifically approved in the IACUC protocol. Following transportation, animals should have access to food and water unless restriction has been stipulated and approved in the protocol.
  - e. Transportation of research animals through patient care areas is governed by a different set of guidelines. IACUC and medical center authorization is required. For more information on transport of animals through patient care areas, contact the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance at [IACUC@duke.edu](mailto:IACUC@duke.edu)
  - f. For more information concerning animal transport, contact the Operations Supervisor, DLAR @ 919.684.3885.
2. Pedestrian Transportation:
- a. Mice, rats, and animals may be manually transported from the housing facility to a lab in secured cages
  - b. Cages SHOULD NOT be secured with adhesive tape. Cages may be secured with bungee cord, rubber bands, or other not adhesive materials. If necessary, contact DLAR at 681-6792 for assistance with strapping materials.
  - c. Cages must be protected from sunlight, car lights, or visual observation during transport by use of opaque plastic bags or boxes, opaque fabric or other opaque covering.
3. Vehicular Transportation (non-DLAR vehicles):
- A. Transportation (non-DLAR vehicles) must have prior approval, which includes:
    - 1) Inclusion of the transportation activity in the protocol (or as amendment to the protocol), and
    - 2) IACUC inspection.
  - B. General criteria for an approved vehicle include:
    - 1) Adequate heating / cooling to maintain general animal comfort, and
    - 2) Protection from direct sun, and
    - 3) Protection from public view, and
    - 4) Method to contain waste (e.g. plastic sheet under the cage), and
    - 5) Method to discourage allergens, and
    - 6) Method to secure the cage inside of the vehicle (e.g. bungee cords).
  - C. Contact the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance at 919.684.4744 or [IACUC@duke.edu](mailto:IACUC@duke.edu) to arrange an inspection time and date.