



A. PURPOSE

To describe the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's (IACUC's) expectations and standards for the transportation of animals in vehicles not operated by University Animal Care (UAC) personnel. This document does not apply to animals used for agricultural purposes. "Personal" vehicles include owned, rented, and borrowed vehicles, as well as any vehicles not owned by the UA.

B. GUIDELINES

As per the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th Edition, "Transportation of animals in private vehicles is discouraged because of potential animal biosecurity, safety, health, and liability risks for the animals, personnel, and institution".

1. Animals should be transported by UAC staff, using UAC equipment and procedures, whenever possible. **Convenience is not an acceptable justification for transporting animals in a personal vehicle.**
 - a. In certain cases, UAC may provide a vehicle for protocol personnel to use for the transportation of animals. When available, a UAC vehicle should be used in lieu of a personal vehicle.
2. For transportation to or from locations outside of those served by UAC, a professional courier or transportation service specializing in live animal shipments should be used. **Cost is not an acceptable justification for transporting animals in a personal vehicle.**
3. Transporting animals in personal vehicles between UAC facilities, to UAC facilities, or away from and then back to UAC facilities must be approved by, and coordinated with, UAC in advance. **Use of a personal vehicle for transporting animals must be scientifically justified.**
4. Transportation of animals in a personal vehicle must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC **prior** to the implementation of the activity. The personal vehicle must be inspected prior to use and every 6 months while in use.
 - a. The use of personal vehicles for transporting animals must be justified as per items 1, 2, and 3 above.
5. Personal vehicles and associated equipment used to transport animals are subject to IACUC inspection and PAM Assessment.
6. Personal vehicles used to transport animals should be mechanically sound and in good repair. Vehicles with known mechanical problems or reliability issues are not appropriate for transporting animals.
7. Animals must only be transported in climate-controlled spaces of vehicles.
 - a. E.g. Passenger areas; cargo areas of vans, hatchbacks, or SUVs that share ventilation with the passenger area; separately climate-controlled cargo boxes.
 - b. Climate controlled compartment must be cooled/heated to appropriate temperature range before loading animals
 - c. Trunks, truck beds, and cargo boxes without climate control are NOT appropriate for transporting animals.
8. All animals must be offered water within 4 hours prior to transportation. If transportation requires more



than 6 hours, animals must have access to food and water during transportation, or hydrogel (for rodent species).

9. Considerations for transporting **Rodents** in personal vehicles:
 - a. Rodents should be transported in disposable cages with snap top lids, with filter-protected ventilation, to contain allergens and exclude potential pathogens/contaminants, and provide security during transportation.
 - b. Rodent cages should be placed in a sanitizable secondary containment for transport.
 - i. E.g. tubs, totes, etc.
 - ii. Rodent cages should never come into direct contact with vehicle upholstery.
 - c. Secondary containment should be sanitized regularly, and at least between transporting animals of differing species or health status. Assurance that sanitization procedures are efficacious should be performed and documented at least annually.

10. Considerations for transporting animals **Other than Rodents** in personal vehicles:
 - a. Animals must be transported in species-appropriate caging that prevents escape, allows for normal postural adjustment, and is constructed in such a way as to withstand the rigors of transportation. All USDA and AWA regulations must be followed for a given species.
 - b. When transporting animals in caging other than the standard housing for that species, every effort should be made to minimize the duration spent in the transport cage to the shortest time possible.
 - c. Transport caging should either be placed in sanitizable secondary containment, or in a fully sanitizable cargo area.
 - i. E.g. tubs, totes, etc.
 - ii. Cargo area constructed with impermeable materials such as metal, plastic, or rubber.
 - d. Secondary containment or the cargo area should be sanitized regularly, and at least between transporting animals of differing species or health status. Assurance that sanitization procedures are efficacious should be performed and documented at least annually.

11. Any transportation of animals in a personal vehicle should occur as a direct route from the point of origin to the destination. Extra stops should be avoided.
 - a. Vehicles should be adequately fueled before picking up animals.

12. Animals must NEVER be left in an unattended personal vehicle.
 - a. Longer trips that may require refueling or other extra stops should be undertaken with at least 2 protocol personnel to ensure that 1 person is always present with the animals.

13. Only personnel listed on the protocol to which the animals being transported are assigned may be present in the vehicle while animals are being transported.
 - a. Secondary containment must be removed and/or sanitized prior to allowing anyone other than protocol personnel into the vehicle.
 - b. UAC, IACUC, and PAM personnel exempt.

14. An Emergency Plan must be in place prior to transporting animals in a personal vehicle in case of mechanical problems, collisions, or other issues.
 - a. A back-up vehicle and driver should be on call whenever animals are being transported.



C. REFERENCES, MATERIALS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of Laboratory Animals*, 8th Edition. Transportation of Animals, [pp 107-109](#)
2. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations (9 C.F.R.): Part 3: 3.13 – 3.19, 3.35 – 3.41, 3.60 – 3.66, 3.86 – 3.92, 3.112 – 3.118, 3.136 – 3.142:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/AC_BlueBook_AWA_508_comp_version.pdf
3. IACUC Guidance 307 [Evaluation of Sanitation Effectiveness](#) (I-IC-GU-307)