MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS OUTSIDE THE ANIMAL HOUSING LOCATION

Overview/Purpose

The IACUC must oversee the methods used to transport animals outside the approved housing locations to ensure safety of the animals and personnel. In addition, species specific transportation requirements or biohazard containment requirements may apply to the movement of animals outside the housing location. This policy provides expectations on the discrete and safe movement of animals, and methods to reduce the risk of zoonosis and allergen exposure to personnel.

Definitions

1. **Public area** - includes roadways, sidewalks, corridors, and areas outside the animal vivarium or IACUC approved space (satellite housing or lab).

2. **Animal** - includes any species involved in research, testing or teaching at The Ohio State University.

Requirements

1. Animals must be placed within clean, species appropriate containment allowing no external viewing when being transported through public areas. Containment must be safe, escape-proof, allow for air exchange, and of an appropriate size for the species being transported. The number of animals placed in a single container must not exceed that approved for the standard housing cage. Appropriate containment examples include:
    - Rodents: Microisolator cage within an opaque enclosure, rubber bands can be used to keep the lid secure
    - Small animals (rabbits, cats and dogs) in covered transport carriers
    - Larger animals (sheep and pigs) in covered transport carts; covers are exempt when movement is through an agriculture campus (i.e. Wooster and the Vet Hospital Barn)
    - Movement of agricultural animals must be in accordance to the *Ag Guide*.
2. Animals transported while anesthetized must be covered but should still allow access for monitoring and intervention when needed.
3. The temperature must be maintained between 45-85° F in the space where the animal is placed during movement; exceptions require veterinary approval or include animals acclimated to agricultural areas in accordance to the *Ag Guide*.
4. Animals must not be transported via public transportation such as shuttles, CABS, and buses
5. The IACUC is required to inspect vehicles used for animal transportation on a regular basis. Therefore, dedicated vehicles must be used whenever possible; **use of personal vehicles is strongly discouraged. Use of personal vehicles must be described in the animal protocol and justification must be approved by the IACUC.**
6. **Use of a personal vehicle is strictly prohibited for movement of animals classified as ABSL-2 or higher and for movement of deceased or live radioactive animals.**
7. Areas of the vehicle that are in direct contact with animals or animal products must be sanitized at the completion of animal transport.
8. Service elevators and non-public corridors must be used when possible.

9. Animal movement through human patient areas must be approved by the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and the route of transportation described in the IACUC protocol. Movement of biohazard animals (macaque monkeys and animals classified as ABSL-2 or above) in human patient areas requires evaluation on a case by case basis.

Applicable Regulations

1. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals,* 8th Edition
2. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching,* 3rd Edition
3. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations
4. Institutional Biosafety Manual
5. Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Animal Imaging Facility Policy
6. *The Radiation Safety Standards for The Ohio State University*

Additional Information/Guidance

Guidance for the Use of Personal Vehicles for the Movement of Animals

Spills or Animal Escape:

1. **In the case of a spill (bedding, urine, feces, or other animal products) or animal escape the researcher is directly responsible for cleaning up the affected area**. Communication with building cleaning services and/or the animal housing facility supervisors may be necessary to obtain the needed supplies.
2. Spills involving an animal classified as ABSL-2 must follow the infectious waste guidelines in the OSU biosafety manual. http://ehs.osu.edu/FileStore/Biosafety%20Manual/bmappd.pdf
3. Spills involving a radioactive animal or carcass must follow the *The Radiation Safety Standards for The Ohio State University*
4. Any adverse or unanticipated events during transit that impact animal health must be reported to the IACUC at iacucinfo@osu.edu

History of Revisions

051-00 - new policy approved 10/18/2013
051-01 - prohibit movement of BSL-2 or higher animals in personal vehicles; require description, justification and approval to transport any other animals in personal vehicles 1/17/14
051-02 – Added radiation safety information. Removed Transport containers should be discarded or sanitized shortly after transport is completed. Added link to IACUC Guidance document 02/17/17