



## 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, exposure to hazardous agents, and allergens to personnel.

### Definitions

1. **Public area** - Roadways, sidewalks, corridors. Areas outside the animal vivarium or IACUC approved space (satellite housing or lab) may also be accessible to the public.
2. **Animal** - includes any species involved in research, testing, or teaching at The Ohio State University.
3. **Hazardous Animal** – Animals exposed to research activities or carrying species-specific endemic disease that is categorized by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) as hazardous. This includes radioactive and chemical hazards as well as biologic hazards resulting in an animal biosafety level (ABSL) of level 2 or greater.

### 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. The number of animals placed in a single container must not exceed that approved for standard housing.
2. Appropriate containment examples include:
  - Rodents: Microisolator cage **within an opaque enclosure**, rubber bands can be used to keep the lid secure. Enclosures may be exempt when cages remain within dedicated research space.
  - 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)
3. Service/Freight elevators and non-public corridors must be used when available.
4. Movement of agricultural animals must be in accordance with the *Ag Guide*.
5. Animals transported while anesthetized must be covered but should still allow access for monitoring and intervention when needed.
6. The temperature must be maintained between 45-85° F in the space where the animal is placed during movement unless animals have been acclimated to agricultural areas in accordance to the *Ag Guide* or have veterinary approval.
7. Animals must never be transported via public transportation such as shuttles, CABS, and buses.
8. Dedicated vehicles must be used whenever possible; **use of personal vehicles is strongly discouraged.**

- a. Justification for the use of a personal vehicle must be approved by IACUC in the animal use protocol.
- b. All areas of the vehicle that are in direct contact with animals or animal products must be sanitized at the completion of animal transport.
- c. The IACUC is required to inspect personal vehicles on a regular basis.

**9. Hazardous Animals**

- d. Use of a personal vehicle is strictly prohibited for movement of ABSL-2 or greater animals and for movement of radioactive animals (deceased or living).
- e. ABSL-2 rodents **require** secondary containment during transport outside the vivarium (e.g., traveling to a lab or other vivarium)
- f. ABSL-2 non-rodents require consideration for secondary containment and use of absorbent material during transport outside the vivarium (e.g., traveling to imaging or surgery)

**10.** 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 requiring ABSL-2 or higher containment) in human patient areas requires evaluation by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) on a case-by-case basis.

**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 staff may be necessary to obtain needed supplies.
- 2. Spills involving an animal requiring ABSL-2 or higher containment must follow the infectious waste guidelines and reporting requirements in the OSU biosafety manual.
- 3. Spills involving a radioactive animal or carcass must follow the [The Radiation Safety Standards for The Ohio State University](https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/radiation_safety_standards.pdf) [https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/radiation\\_safety\\_standards.pdf](https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/radiation_safety_standards.pdf)
- 4. Any adverse or unanticipated events during transit that impact animal health must be reported to the IACUC at [iacucinfo@osu.edu](mailto:iacucinfo@osu.edu)

**Applicable Regulations**

- 1. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition
- 2. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
- 3. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations
- 4. Institutional Biosafety Manual [https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/complete\\_bsm.pdf](https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/complete_bsm.pdf)
  - o Section IX.5.1.1. Outside the Laboratory; during Transport (on the OSU Campus)
- 5. The Radiation Safety Standards for The Ohio State University [https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/radiation\\_safety\\_standards.pdf](https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/radiation_safety_standards.pdf)
  - o IX. Procedures and Precautions For The Use of Radioactive Materials Section G – page 45

**Additional Information/Guidance**

[Guidance for the Use of Personal Vehicles for the Movement of Animals](#)

## History of Revisions

**51-00** - new policy approved 10/18/2013

**51-01** - 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

**51-02** – 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

**51-03** – Added information on transport of animals requiring ABSL-2 or higher containment, added and defined hazardous animals 03/20/20

**51-04** – Added allowances to except the need for a transport cover for rodent cages 03/19/21