

University of Cincinnati
Animal Care and Use Program

Animal Transportation

The *Guide* states, “Careful planning for all types of transportation should occur to ensure animal safety and well-being. The process of transportation should provide an appropriate level of animal biosecurity while minimizing zoonotic risks, protecting against environmental extremes, avoiding overcrowding, providing for the animals’ physical, physiologic, behavioral needs and comfort, and protecting the animals and personnel from physical trauma.” For animals used in biological, chemical, or radiological studies, additional safety requirements may apply (consult with applicable safety office).

Transportation of non-rodent USDA species

Must be transported by LAMS per [Animal Transportation Guidelines](#).

Transportation of all other species within the same or interconnected building(s)

1. Containers used for transport should be species specific, appropriate secured containers.
2. Containers should be clean (recently changed) and should limit exposure to allergens, waste products, or odors, while providing sufficient air for normal respiration.
3. A filter top cage or breathable shipping crate must be used.
4. All cages and other containment devices must be covered with a breathable opaque material to contain allergens and prevent public viewing during transport.
5. Stacking of cages is not permitted as it can obstruct airflow.
6. Proper identification must accompany the animal.
7. Service elevators must be used where available.
8. Up to 2 containers may be carried by hand. If transporting 3 or more containers, a cart is required.
9. All rodents are to have food and water during transport unless restriction is stipulated in the associated approved IACUC protocol.

Transportation of all other species outside of a building

1. A [Personal Vehicle User Form](#) must be completed if transporting with a personal vehicle. Transport includes UC animal transportation on public roads between campuses or other destinations. A completed copy of this form must be sent to the [IACUC office](#). The form will need to be resubmitted for any new vehicles or drivers and renewed annually. Personal vehicles must be added to the associated protocol to ensure proper IACUC oversight. All personal vehicles to be used for animal transportation must be made available for inspection by the IACUC prior to approval, and yearly thereafter.
2. During times of extreme temperatures, animal transport may be detrimental to animal well-being. Therefore, it may not be possible unless an appropriately heated or cooled means of transportation is available. Precautions should be taken to help ensure that appropriate, species-specific, ambient temperatures within the cage are maintained (e.g., additional nesting material provided, heat source, or transporting within a thermal-insulated container or transport shipping crate obtained via LAMS husbandry service request).
3. Ensure cage lids are secure with clip, tie, or residue-free tape.
4. Position and secure cages to cart/vehicle so that airflow is not blocked, and the containers will not tip, slide, fall off or flip over.

General criteria for a transport vehicle

1. Whenever possible, a dedicated animal transport vehicle should be used.
2. To request LAMS transport, submit a LAMS Husbandry Service Request.
3. If transporting using a personal vehicle between facilities:
 - a. A [Personal Vehicle User Form](#) must be on file with the IACUC office prior to transport.
 - b. ACUP must be notified by email to lams-husbandry@uc.edu, lams-veterinary@uc.edu, and copy IACUC@uc.edu **PRIOR** to transport. The following information is recommended to be included with the email notification:
 - i. Transport date
 - ii. Transport window
 - iii. Transportation route
 - iv. Transportation method
 - v. Contact/personnel performing transportation

Notification prior to transport is NOT required for animals being transported to your IACUC-approved satellite space, regardless of location of satellite facility.

4. The heating/cooling system of the vehicle must maintain the inside temperature of the vehicle at an appropriate temperature (based on species) prior to loading the animals (e.g., 65-75°F for laboratory rodents).
5. Attention should be paid to protect animals from direct sunlight to avoid animals overheating.
6. Animals should not be left in the vehicle any longer than what is necessary to transport them to their destination.
7. In the event a vehicle malfunctions in transit, animal welfare is a priority.

References

1. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations, 2022
2. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition, 2011