Animal Transportation Policy

This policy applies to animals that are being transported outside of the Laboratory Animal Medical Services (LAMS) facilities. Measures must be taken to protect the animals in transport, personnel working with the animals, and other individuals who may be exposed to the animals or cages. For animals used in biological, chemical or radiological studies, additional safety requirements may apply (consult with applicable safety office).

1) **Non-rodent USDA species must be transported by LAMS.**

2) **The following steps are to be followed when removing animals from LAMS facilities and transporting them within the same or interconnected building(s):**
   a) Containers used for transport should be clean and should limit exposure to allergens, waste products, or odors, while providing sufficient air for normal respiration.
   b) Proper identification must accompany the animal.
   c) Service elevators must be used where available.
   d) Containers must be secured to prevent escape of the animal.
   e) Up to 3 containers may be carried by hand. If 3 or more containers are to be transported, a cart is required.
   f) **Rodents**
      i) Solid top lids may be used if transportation and holding of animals will be 30 minutes or less. If greater than 30 minutes, a filter top cage or breathable shipping crate must be used.
      ii) All containers must prevent public viewing during transport.
      iii) Upon arrival to the destination, animals should have access to food and water (if species appropriate) unless restriction has been stipulated and approved in the IACUC protocol.
   g) **Aquatic and semi-aquatic and terrestrial ectotherms** are transported in species specific appropriate secured containers.

3) **The following additional steps are required when transporting animals outside of a building:**
   a) During times of extreme temperatures animal transport may be detrimental to animal well-being and, therefore, may not be possible unless an appropriately heated or cooled means of transportation is available (Guide). 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 thermally insulated container).

4) **General criteria for a transport vehicle include:**
a) Whenever possible, a dedicated animal transport vehicle should be used (e.g. LAMS vehicles). If a personal vehicle must be used, IACUC office must be notified.

b) 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).

c) The animal containers should be positioned in the vehicle so that airflow is not blocked and the containers will not tip or slide.

d) Attention should be paid to protect animals from direct sunlight to avoid cages overheating.

e) Animals should not be left in the vehicle any longer than what is necessary to transport them to their destination.

f) In the event a vehicle malfunctions in transit, animal welfare is a priority.

REFERENCES: