

**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 with appropriately secured lids and transported in a secondary container (transport shipping crate can be obtained via LAMS husbandry service request).
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 breathable opaque material to contain allergens and prevent public viewing during transport.
5. Stacking 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**

Transportation is exclusive to the following mechanisms:

- LAMS
  - Personal vehicle registered and inspected by the IACUC
  - Via hand carry or cart (restricted within UC Medical campus only)
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. Only animal handlers listed on the IACUC protocol are permitted to transport animals in personal vehicles. A completed copy of the user 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 [Personal Vehicle User Form](#) must be on file with the IACUC office prior to transport.
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. Adverse events during animal transport must be reported to the [IACUC office](#).

### **References**

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