

CONFIDENTIAL**ANIMAL TRANSPORT AND USE IN PUBLIC AREAS**

This document contains information concerning animal transport through public access areas. Public access areas include roadways, and areas outside the animal facilities. All personnel involved in animal care and use are required to follow this guideline to ensure that animal transport is conducted in a safe and appropriate manner. Investigators and their research associates are reminded that all transferring and/or transporting of animals between institutions, facilities, investigators, or protocols require completion of certain forms to assure regulatory compliance and to maintain the colony's health status. Please contact Comparative Medicine (CM) if you need detailed information regarding the required forms and for assistance in the arrangement of a CM dedicated transport vehicle.

The transport, import and use of all genetically modified (GM) animals must be in accordance with the Singapore Biosafety Guidelines for Research on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), as set out by the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC).

During local transport, animals must be transported under conditions that are appropriate to the species and that meet standards generally adopted in veterinary and laboratory animal medicine so as to ensure that the welfare of the animals is not unduly compromised. Potential sources of distress should be identified and steps taken to avoid or minimise their effects on the animals.

For aquatic species and amphibians, special considerations are required for transportation in an aqueous or sufficiently moist environment, and special attention should be given to avoiding temperature extremes for poikilotherms.

For fish, amphibians and reptiles, care should be taken to reduce the stress associated with transportation. The PI and others working with fish should be proficient and equipped to handle the fish properly so as to minimise stress and injury to the fish. Where appropriate, chemical restraint should be judiciously and correctly used.

Animal Transport Through Public Access Areas

All transportation of animals should be planned to minimize transit time, reduce the risk of zoonoses, avoid the visibility of animals to the public, and protect the animals against physical trauma, sudden movements and extremes of climate. Air-conditioned transport vehicles (either personal or CM dedicated transport vehicle) must be used if the distance from the animal housing location (e.g vivarium) to the animal use location (e.g laboratory) is not in the vicinity of CM vivarium. Service elevators must be used when available; this includes the transportation of empty carriers, restraint chairs, transport cages, shoebox cages, etc. Containers must be escape and tamper-proof and there should be adequate nesting or bedding material where appropriate. Mode of transport of animals must address animal biosecurity, safety, health, and liability risks for the animals, personnel, and the institution. The guidelines apply when animals are transported through public areas:

Requirements for Transport Equipment

Species	Transport Equipment
Cats, dogs, pigs	Covered large animal transport cage
Rabbits	Covered transport cage
Rodents	Covered transport box or shoebox cage ¹
Sheep	Filtered transport cage
Dead animals	Opaque durable plastic bag of appropriate size ²

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¹ Please note that isolation gowns and biohazard bags are NOT ACCEPTABLE for covering rodent cages. For rodent transport, they MUST be placed in suitable opaque container before they are taken out of the room.

² Use double bags to transport dead animals. If the animals were used in research involving biohazardous materials, follow the [disposition procedures](#) as recommended by [Office of Risk Management and Compliance \(ORMC\)](#).

Requirements for Transport Vehicles

Transporting animals in vehicles not specifically designated for animal transportation (e.g. personal or rented vehicles) is strongly discouraged. Please contact Comparative Medicine for details concerning animal transport in vehicles. The following contains general guidelines when a commercial animal transport company is not used:

- The cargo space must be constructed and maintained in a manner that protects the health and well-being of the animals, including precluding the entry of exhaust fumes;
- The animal cargo space must have adequate air supply for the normal breathing of all animals;
- The air supply to the animal cargo space shall not be shared with the air supply of the operator(s) to minimize the transmission of zoonotic agents by aerosol;
- The ambient temperature of the vehicle must be maintained at the specific range for that species.
- It is required to sanitize the transport vehicle after transportation of the animals; if a passenger vehicle is used, place plastic or similar material on the floor under the transport cage to minimize contamination;
- For transporting large species of animals, a cargo van is preferred provided the transport cages can be adequately secured to prevent movement

Revision	Author	IACUC approval date
Last reviewed	Dr Foo Tet Wei, John	3 September 2015
P107.01. Reviewed to:	Dr Chew Li Li	16 January 2023
1. ensure policies are in compliance with the NAELAR Guidelines 2022 and the updated Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules 2004; and	IACUC	
2. up-to-date with current practices		
Changes made:		
1. to add "The transport, import and use of all genetically modified (GM) animals must be in accordance with the Singapore Biosafety Guidelines for Research on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), as set out by the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) Where appropriate, chemical restraint should be judiciously and correctly used; and		
2. under "Animal Transport Through Public Access Areas", add "sudden movements and extremes of climate" and "Containers must be escape and tamper-proof liability risks for the animals, personnel, and the institution."		