

## **POLICY REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF RESEARCH ANIMALS**

### **PURPOSE:**

This policy serves to outline the process for transporting laboratory animals both on and off of the Liberty University campus.

### **POLICY:**

*The Guide* (p. 107) states that:

- Animal transportation may be intra-institutional, inter-institutional, or between a commercial or non-commercial source and a research facility.
- The process of transportation must provide an appropriate level of animal biosecurity while minimizing zoonotic risks, protecting against environmental extremes, avoiding overcrowding, providing for the animals physical, physiologic, or behavior needs and comfort, and protecting the animals and personnel from physical trauma.
- Movement of animals within or between sites or institutions shall be planned and coordinated by responsible and well trained persons at the sending and receiving sites to minimize animal transit time or delays in receipt.

In order to comply with the above recommendations, Liberty University has adopted the following policy:

1. Any transportation of animals outside of an animal facility must:
  - a. Be approved by the IACUC or described in the approved IACUC protocol.
  - b. Be for a period of no longer than 12 hours (unless approved by the IACUC).
2. Appropriate vehicles for transporting animals must be used.
3. Animals must be transported in appropriate cages or carriers designated for each species.
4. Whenever possible, limit the exposure of the animals to public viewing by covering or concealing the animal cages during transport.
5. The following means of transportation are not permitted for transporting animals:
  - a. Public transit (shuttle bus, train, etc.)
  - b. Bicycles
  - c. Motorcycles
  - d. Motor-driven scooters
6. Transportation between animal facilities requires the approval of the facility managers, PIs, or designees.
7. This policy only extends to university owned research animals, and does not apply to privately owned animals, or animals being treated in a veterinary-client-patient relationship.
8. Any exemptions to this policy must be approved by the IACUC.

### **GUIDELINES ON VEHICULAR TRANSPORT**

- Animals must be transported in the passenger compartment only.
- The vehicle must provide adequate heating and cooling to maintain an appropriate environment for the animal(s).
- Crates/cages must be placed away from direct sunlight with adequate ventilation, and on non-porous material within the vehicle to allow for easy cleaning.

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- Animals shall not be overcrowded at any time.
- Crates/cages must be secured properly in an upright manner, making sure that they are not tilted, rolled, or laid on their side.
- Drivers are to remain with or in the vehicle at all times when animals are present.
- The most direct route of transportation must be taken, i.e., door to door.
- Personnel must be aware of the potential for animal allergen exposure and risk to others that may be passengers in the vehicle.
- Take necessary steps to minimize stress during transport:
  - Handle cages gently, do not shake or drop
  - Low noise levels: keep windows closed, do not slam doors, keep radios low or off.
- Do not smoke in or around the animal transport vehicle or animal crates.

## **GUIDELINES ON ON-CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION**

- If using a vehicle, follow the above guidelines.
- If animals are to be transported on foot:
  - Mice, rats, and animals may be manually transported in secured cages
  - Cage lids must be secured, with low-residue adhesive tape or a bungee cord
  - Cages must be protected or covered from sunlight and visual observation by using an opaque drape or container.
  - If an underground connection is available between buildings, this is preferable to going outside.