IACUC Policy # 520: Transportation of Animals

This policy describes the requirements and procedures for on and off campus transportation of Cornell animals* covered by IACUC protocols.

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* This policy does not apply to privately owned animals or those in a veterinary client patient relationship.

1) Policy
A. Transportation of animals outside an animal facility must be approved by the IACUC and described in the animal use protocol.
B. Vehicles appropriate for animal transport must be used.
C. Public transportation (e.g. shuttle buses, intercampus buses, trains), and the use of bicycles, motorcycles or motor scooters are not acceptable or permitted.
D. Transportation between animal facilities requires the approval of the facility managers and Principal Investigators (PIs) or designees.
E. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the IACUC.

2) Procedure
B. Follow ACUP 532: Cleaning and Sanitizing Department Vehicles and ACUP 544: Cleaning and Sanitizing Materials Used in the Transport of Animals.
C. Follow Facility-specific SOPs and applicable local, state, and federal regulations for transportation of animals.
D. If these procedures cannot be followed, contact CARE with details specific to your animal transportation request.

3) Regulatory Guidelines
   1. Animal transportation may be intrainstitutional, interinstitutional or between a commercial or non-commercial source and a research facility. For wildlife, transportation may occur between the capture site and field holding facilities. 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 or behavioral needs and comfort, and protecting the animals and personnel from physical trauma.

2. Movement of animals within or between sites or institutions should 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. Defining and delegating this responsibility to the appropriate persons, who are knowledgeable about the needs of the species being shipped, will help ensure effective communication and planning of animal transport.

3. For non-commercial sources of animals, in particular, it is important for the veterinarian or the veterinarian’s designee to review the health status and other housing and husbandry requirements prior to authorizing shipment of animals. This will ensure that effective quarantine practices are implemented for incoming animals as well as addressing any special requirements needed to ensure animal well-being.

B. Resources

- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (ILAR, 2011) [the Guide]
- Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE): IACUC Approved Animal Care and Use Procedures (ACUPs) [http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/acups.html]
- IACUC Policies [http://www.iacuc.cornell.edu/policy/]