

Colorado State University

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Animal Transportation Policy

The Animal Welfare Act regulations¹ (§3.137-3.142) and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals² (Guide) (p106-109) set the standards for transportation of animals and address the occupational safety of individuals engaged in the process. The transportation standards are predicated on all animals being **acquired lawfully** and appropriate records and required documents maintained (e.g. health certificates, brand inspections, collection permits, etc.). While species specific differences are addressed in the relevant sections of the Animal Welfare Act regulations and in various areas of the Guide, the following basic tenets apply to animal transportation in general. These key elements include, and are not limited to:

- 1) **Primary enclosures** (compartments, cages, crates) safely and securely contain animals and protect them from injury.
- 2) Sufficient **space** in the primary enclosure to allow for normal postural adjustments.
- 3) Animals in the same primary enclosure must be of the **same species**, and in **compatible** groups.
- 4) Animals in transit must be fed, watered, checked, and protect from adverse **environmental conditions** as appropriate.
- 5) Live animals must not be transported with materials, substances (e.g. dry ice), or devices which may be reasonably expected to be injurious to animal health and well-being.
- 6) The most direct route of transport should be followed.

This policy is meant to address the majority of animal transport that occurs for animals used for research, teaching, and/or testing. For exceptions to this policy or questions about this policy, consult the AV³, and/or the IACUC⁴.

Transportation

Transportation of CSU owned animals may only occur with IACUC approval, including a vehicle inspection where applicable (vehicle includes trailers).

- 1) LAR staff are required to transport USDA covered species, with the following exceptions:
 - Rodents may be transported by research staff with IACUC approval.
 - USDA livestock species may be transferred by non-centralized departmental units in approved vehicles (VTH, ARBL, EPAF, etc.).
- 2) Mice/rats may be transported off campus if travel time is < 2 hours one way, for an approved activity.
- 3) Commercial carriers should be used whenever possible for off-campus transport, particularly for transcontinental shipments.

¹ CFR 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A – Animal Welfare, Parts 1-4.

² Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, National Academy Press (2011), Washington, DC.

³ AV: Attending Veterinarian, and/or delegates

⁴ IACUC: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Personal vehicles

When animals are transported in personal vehicles, please observe the following:

- A. Secure IACUC approval before transporting animals in personal vehicles.
- B. Animals should be transported in their home cage type, otherwise consult with LAR for appropriate caging options.
- C. Vehicle must be inspected at least every 3 years by a member of the IACUC or IACUC Staff to meet the criteria outlined in the Animal Transportation Vehicle Checklist.
- D. The compartment in which the primary enclosures are kept must provide comfortable environmental temperatures with adequate ventilation for all animals and must contain the cages in a stable and safe manner to prevent tipping/overturning.
- E. Vehicle must be kept clean, and decontaminated as appropriate after the transport.
- F. Be aware of potential zoonotic hazards associated with the animals and make sure occupants are protected.

Wild animals

Transportation of wild animals requires additional preparation and precautions due to the complexity of regulations related to acquisition, possession and transportation.

Wild caught animals require transportation in an appropriate enclosure to prevent direct contact from the occupants to protect personnel and minimize exposures to personnel.

- A. Appropriate thermal regulation is required for the species being transported.
- B. The area shall be easily sanitizable and sanitized after delivery.
- C. Obtain and keep a copy of the appropriate **permits** with you from all the appropriate agencies (federal, state, and local) before acquiring wild animals.
- D. Wild animals are of unknown health status and should be presumed to carry **zoonotic agents**.
- E. Animals may need to be **watered** and **fed** before transportation and must be visually **checked** every 4 hours during transit.
- F. Wild or otherwise dangerous animals must not be removed from their primary enclosures except under extreme emergency situations.

Livestock

Livestock transported by CSU personnel is done with IACUC approved trailers.

Building to building transport

When animals are transported from an animal facility to an investigator's laboratory or to a procedure location outside the housing area, the following should be observed:

- A. Animals should be moved in an appropriate container (e.g. home cages, transport box, crates, tanks, containers, or trailer.) Cages or crates should be covered with a sheet whenever possible
- B. Transport should be directly and expeditiously completed while outside of a temperature-controlled building.
- C. Under no circumstances is public transportation or bicycle to be used to transport animals.
- D. Avoid the use of public elevators whenever possible.
- E. Livestock may be walked over short distances.
- F. Animals should be used and returned the same day, unless otherwise approved by the IACUC.
- G. Dirty cages and other materials should be returned to LAR. If animals are returning to the animal facility, they should be placed in dedicated holding space. Contact LAR for appropriate procedures.

Transport of Animals with Infectious Disease

The transportation of animals with an infectious agent are arranged through the Biosafety Office.

ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE CHECKLIST

Investigator	
Department	
Make of Vehicle	
Species Transported	
Inspected by	
Role	
Date	
Protocol #(s)	
Comments	

Key AWAR (§3.137-3.142) and Guide Considerations (p. 106-109)

Yes	No	Item	Comments
		Primary enclosures protect animal health, and ensure animal health and comfort (e.g. vehicle space is clean where the animals will be placed).	
		Primary enclosures strong enough to contain live animals	
		Primary containers held securely in cargo space	
		Cargo space designed to protect animal health, and ensure animal comfort and health	
		Cargo space is not contaminated by exhaust fumes	
		Cargo space has adequate ventilation for each animal	
		Animals are protected from adverse environmental conditions	
		Live animals not transported with materials, substances or devices injurious to animal health	
		Potable water offered within 4 hours of transportation and every 12 hours thereafter	
		Food is offered at least every 24 hours, or according to veterinary recommendation or physiological state of the animal	
		Live animals can be removed easily in event of an emergency	
		Live animals visually inspected every 4 hours	
		Proper live animal documentation for transport of animals is in place, as needed (e.g. USDA Transfer Form, Health Certificate, etc.)	
		Cargo compartment protects vehicle occupants from exposure to zoonotic agents (arrangements in place to protect human health)	

Institutional Endorsement

The "Animal Transportation Policy," approved by the IACUC on November 15, 2022 for recommendation to the Institutional Official, supports the research, teaching and service mission of Colorado State University, and ensures that the welfare of animal subjects used therein will be protected. Therefore, as the Institutional Official, I declare the IACUC-recommended policy to be the policy of the Colorado State University Animal Care and Use Program.

Institutional Official

Date