



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

ANIMAL RESOURCES CENTER

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This ARC guideline has been written to clearly communicate current standards for UT animal users. Questions should be directed to Nachi Shukla (232-2043) or Dr. Glen Otto (471-2392).

09/24/21

Requirements for use of private vehicles for animal transport

This document describes procedures that investigators must follow when transporting live, vertebrate research animals in a private car or truck. As per the IACUC, research labs must establish a written standard operating procedure (SOP) for the use of private vehicles and the ARC must be contacted for evaluation and approval of both the SOP and any vehicle that is proposed to be used. Below is a list of the core requirements that will be verified by the ARC staff. For further information regarding this and other aspects of animal transportation, see the IACUC publication "Guidelines for the Transportation of Animals" available online at: <https://research.utexas.edu/ors/animal-research/policies-procedures-and-guidelines/>

Approval and documentation

- All animal transport between buildings must be described in the Husbandry section of an approved IACUC protocol.
- A written SOP (standard operating procedure) must be drafted by the research lab and approved by the ARC

Animal preparation

- Animals cannot be overcrowded for transport.
- If multiple animals are moved in the same cage or compartment, they must be compatible to avoid fighting.
- For rodents, the home cage should be used whenever possible for transportation. If an alternate transport container is used, its dimensions should be comparable to their normal housing cage size.
- Cages or carriers must be secured during transportation to avoid animal escape or injury.
- A microisolator lid must be placed on rodent cages to secure and isolate the animals. The bottle must be removed or reversed so it does not drip water into the cage during transport. The lid must be secured by using a large rubber band, bungee cord, autoclave tape, etc.
- If a commercial pet carrier or other alternatives to a standard cage is used, the ARC facilities manager should be contacted to verify the acceptability of the transport container chosen. Containers must comply with the following: able to be sanitized; spill proof, preventing waste from falling outside the container; secure and escape proof; provide adequate ventilation; have a solid floor; and be free of sharp edges that could harm the animal.
- Animals that have been treated with hazardous agents (i.e., biological, chemical, radiological) shall not be transported in a private vehicle.

Vehicle and transport requirements

- Plastic sheeting, waterproof lab bench paper or other impermeable barrier material must be placed between the cages and the upholstery or floor. The location of the containers in the vehicle should be chosen to allow a thorough cleaning and disinfection after each transport (which should be described in the SOP)
- Use a seat belt, bungee cord, cargo strap, etc. to secure cages within the vehicle.
- Animals should not be transported in the trunk, truck bed or other non-climate-controlled areas of the vehicle. The IACUC and the ARC must approve any exceptions on a case-by-case basis in advance.
- Smoking, eating or drinking are not allowed when research animals are in the vehicle.
- Personnel listed on the IACUC protocol must operate the vehicle, and persons not listed on the protocol cannot travel in the vehicle during animal transport.
- Animal transport should be as direct as possible.
- Animals must never be left unattended during transport.
- Return all caging, dirty bedding and carcasses to an appropriate location at the end of the experiment.
- The persons responsible for transportation must have a mobile phone, consult with individuals knowledgeable about the transport of the species, and minimize transport times by careful planning of the route and avoiding any delays.

NOTE: There are special considerations mentioned in the IACUC transportation guidelines that are required for the long-distance transport of animals (which may require rest stops for the driver and the provision of water and/or food for the animals) or the transportation of wildlife (which may require more specialized containers or may pose a greater safety risk to exposed personnel).

Request for ARC Approval of Private Vehicle Use to Transport Vertebrate Animals

09/24/21

Name (please PRINT): _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

IACUC protocol number: _____ PI name: _____

Species to be transported (check all that apply):

Laboratory Mouse Laboratory Rat Rabbit

Fish Amphibian/Reptile Bird

Other (please list) _____

Vehicle type: SUV/Van with internal cargo area Passenger Car

Truck with separate environmentally-controlled cargo area.

Other (please describe) _____ State and License #: _____

Animals must not be transported in the open bed of trucks or in the trunk of a car

Please check the following boxes to indicate your understanding and agreement with the requirements below.

I have read and will follow the IACUC *Guidelines for the Transportation of Animals* and the *ARC Requirements for Use of Private Vehicles for Animal Transport*.

The animal transport is mentioned in the approved IACUC protocol listed above and I am listed in the Personnel section of that protocol.

I will ensure that the vehicle is in good working order, including verification of proper functionality of the vehicle climate control system.

I will ensure that the vehicle will be pre heated or pre cooled and kept in the proper temperature range (for most species 45-85 °F for trips <15 minutes; 65-85°F if longer)

I will ensure that the animals have adequate ventilation.

I will ensure that the doors/lids have been secured to the cage or transport container has been secured to the vehicle to prevent shifting during transport.

I will ensure that the animals are not exposed to intense sunlight or public view.

I have read and will follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) that has been written by my lab and is attached to this request.

Please attach the lab's transport SOP, which should be a short written description of the transport plan including:

- *Origin and destination*
- *The cage or transport container to be used*
- *The type of vehicle to be used*
- *The location in the vehicle where animals will be kept during transport*
- *The method for covering the floor or seats to keep them from being soiled*
- *The method for securing the cages/containers in place in the vehicle*

Transporter's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ARC Approval by: _____ Date: _____