



## CARE 547.03 Animal (Nonagricultural) Transport and Use Outside Animal Facilities

The intent of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe transportation and use of nonagricultural animals outside the animal facility and to ensure this transportation is conducted in a manner that is safe for the animal and the public. This SOP is intended for anyone transporting or preparing animals for transport. This procedure is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE). Any exemption must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

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### 1. Introduction

- a. Public access areas include roadway and areas outside the animal facilities.
- b. Transportation or use of animals outside an animal facility must be described in the IACUC-approved animal use protocol.

### 2. Materials

- a. Species appropriate transport enclosure.
- b. Climate controlled transport vehicle where applicable.
- c. Opaque drape to cover the transport enclosure where applicable.

### 3. Procedures

- a. Animal Transport Through Public Areas
  - i. Plan all transportation of animals to:
    - minimize transit time
    - reduce the risk of zoonoses and allergies
    - prevent public exposure
    - prevent escape
    - protect the animals against contaminants and aversive conditions (extreme environmental conditions, physical injuries, etc)
  - ii. Provide food and a source of water when indicated (example: if animal will remain in the cage for several hours).

- iii. Avoid overcrowding cages: use the same density requirement as for general housing.
- iv. Use service elevators and corridors when available.
- v. Contain the movement of animals through public corridors to prevent the dispersal of allergens, fomites, and other particles and debris. For example: transport rodents in filter top caging or closed transport containers. Place other small animals, such as rabbits, cats and dogs, in covered transport carriers. In addition, all clear cages must be covered with an opaque cloth or placed in an opaque container to prevent public exposure.
- vi. Ensure that the enclosure:
  - is an appropriate size for the animals being transported;
  - will not cause injury to the animals; and
  - contains the animals securely to prevent escape.
- vii. Use double bags to transport dead small animals and appropriate carts or vehicles for dead large animals.

#### b. Requirements for Transport Vehicles

**NOTE:** Transporting animals in vehicles not specifically designated for animal transportation (e.g., personal or rented vehicles) is **strongly discouraged**. Contact [CARE](#) for details concerning animal transport in vehicles for your specific case (species, location, associated hazards, duration, etc.).

- i. Maintain the vehicle's ambient temperature between 45 and 85° F.
- ii. Keep the vehicle clean and in good condition. Sanitize the transport vehicle, per [CARE SOP 532](#) Cleaning and Sanitizing Department Vehicles, between transportation of animals of different health status. If a passenger vehicle is used, place plastic or a similar material on the floor under the transport cage to minimize contamination and facilitate sanitization.
- ii. Use a cargo van if possible to transport large species of animals, provided the transport cages can be adequately secured to prevent movement.

#### c. Animal Use Outside the Animal Facility

When animal procedures must be performed outside the animal facility:

- i. Verify that the lab or procedure room is listed on the animal use protocol.
- ii. Confirm that all essential personnel are listed on the protocol and have completed IACUC-required training (i.e. Module1). Non-essential employees must not be present.
- iii. All employees and students potentially in contact with animals or their tissues must register in Cornell's Animal Users Health and Safety Program (AUHSP) whether or not they participate in the procedure.
- iv. Close door and interior window shades in the procedure room to avoid view and/or intrusion during the conduct of the procedures.
- v. After procedures have been performed, thoroughly clean and disinfect surfaces surrounding the procedure area (countertops, floors, equipment, and other areas of the procedure room where animals were used).

- d. To Request Animal Transportation by Laboratory Animal Services (LAS)
  - i. Contact the manager of the facility in which the research animals are housed. Consult CARE if help is needed to identify the appropriate facility manager.
  - ii. Supply the facility manager with the following information:
    - your name, principal investigator (PI) name, and protocol number;
    - identification numbers, and cage locations of animals to be transported;
    - lab or procedure room location;
    - lab, office, home, and cellular phone numbers for workday, evening/weekend, and emergency contact.
  - iii. Meet LAS staff at the designated time and location to receive animals.
  - iv. Fee determination:
    - The fee is based on the technical support required to prepare equipment for transport, move animals into transport equipment, and deliver animals to desired locations.
    - The charge will be based on time accrued to provide the service throughout the month and billed on a monthly schedule using the established technical support rate. Monthly total of 1/2 hour or less will be billed at a minimum of 1/2 hour. Over 1/2 hour, charges will be based on 15 minute increments.

**NOTE:** While an attempt will be made to handle last minute requests, particularly if an emergency, please give as much advance notice as possible.

#### 4. Safety

- a. Working with research animals can trigger allergies; refer to AUHSP Allergy Prevention Fact Sheet.
- b. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), refer to CARE SOP 715.
- c. Refer to the CARE Zoonoses web page for zoonotic information specific to the species with which you are working.
- d. Observe CARE SOP 707 for animal-related injury.

#### 5. Contingencies

Emergency veterinary care is available at all times through Ambulatory & Production Medicine Clinic (607-253-3140) or CARE (pager 1-800-349-2456).

#### 6. Reference

- a. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, National Research Council; National Academy Press: Washington, DC, 1996.
- b. [CARE SOP 532](http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE532.pdf)- Cleaning and Sanitizing Department Vehicles
- c. [CARE SOP 715](http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE715.pdf)- Personal Protective Equipment
- d. CARE SOP 707- Animal Related Injury:  
<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE707.pdf>
- e. CARE Zoonoses: <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/zoonoses.html>
- f. AUHSP Allergy Prevention Fact Sheet:

<http://www.research.cornell.edu/CARE/documents/OHS/AllergyPreventionFactSheet.pdf>

g. Zoonoses:

<http://www.research.cornell.edu/CARE/zoonoses.html>

h. [CARE SOP 707](#): Animal Related Injury

<http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE707.pdf>

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