



Animal Facility SOP 18.2

Animal Transport Procedures

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I. Purpose:

This SOP applies to transport of rodents and aquatic species between facilities or buildings at MSU

II. Personnel Responsibilities:

Applies to all personnel working with rodents.

III. General Information

This SOP applies to transport of rodents and aquatic species between facilities or buildings at MSU. Transportation of research or teaching animals within or between campus buildings is an essential component of the research and teaching enterprise. The integrity and well being of the animals directly affects the quality of the research. Transport should avoid exposure to potential pathogens, prevent injury, and minimize stressors such as temperature extremes, odors, loud noise, and confrontations with other animals. Transport procedures should protect human health and prevent allergies of animal origin, injury from escaped animals, and exposure to hazards such as microorganisms, chemicals, or radioactive materials.

[The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) states that animal 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."

IV. Materials

Oversized elastic bands

Polystyrene or other insulated secondary containers with lids and air holes and a method for securing the lids.

Transport carts

V. Procedure:

- A. Transportation of animals should avoid delays and should avoid public/ congested areas
- B. where possible.
- C. Animals must not be transported with any other animal, substance, or device that may potentially cause injury to the animal being transported.
- D. Enclosures containing animals must be secure and maintained in a manner that will prevent them from tipping or falling. They should be handled gently so as to minimize physical trauma or distress to the animals.
- E. Insulated enclosures should be used to avoid temperature extremes. When temperatures fall below 40°F (4.4°C) or above 85°F (29.4°C), rodents may be physically harmed. Aquatic species may be physically harmed by any sudden temperature changes.
- F. The primary enclosure must be secured (e.g. the cage top or tank lid) secured with a large elastic band, and enclosed in an opaque secondary container that allows adequate ventilation and insulates the animals from temperature extremes. The container should be constructed of materials that can either be sanitized or discarded. If hazardous substances are to be contained, then the container should be locked or otherwise secured to prevent accidental opening. If the animal is retained within the container for longer than 1 hour, food and water should be provided in the primary cage. Water for transport needs to be provided as a gel, and if water bottles are maintained in the primary cage, they should be inverted to avoid spills.
- G. Transport containers should be sanitized after each use.
- H. Vehicles used for transport should be heated or air conditioned as appropriate to outside conditions



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