Purpose: This policy describes guidelines and expectations related to animal transport. Transportation must be in compliance with USDA animal transportation regulations, recommendations from The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and other regulatory resources. Humane and safe transportation is necessary to ensure the health and well-being of animals, protect the integrity of research, and maintain security. This policy applies to vendor deliveries, moves within building complexes, transportation between buildings, and exports.

Responsibility: All animal handlers and transporters related to the University of Minnesota Animal Care and Use Program are responsible for following these guidelines, and/or those outlined in the original references cited in this document, including vendors, RAR staff, laboratory staff, and contracted animal transport service providers. Personnel providing transportation of animals must have experience with, and knowledge of, the species being transported.

Requirements:
All transportation should be planned and conducted in a manner to:
- Minimize transit time
- Protect animals from physical trauma or psychological distress
- Protect against environmental extremes
- Avoid overcrowding
- Provide food and water when indicated
- Minimize the risk to people from injury, exposure to allergens, and zoonotic disease

Contact RAR with questions about transportation and transfers, and for assistance at 612-624-6169. All imports, exports, and moves between unconnected buildings on campus or to nearby affiliated institutions are arranged by RAR.

 Movements of animals must be described on the approved IACUC protocol which covers their use.

Transport vehicles used by University, or University-affiliated personnel must be inspected at least once every 6 months by the IACUC.

Animal Preparation

1. For rodent cages moving between facilities, water bottles may need to be turned or removed during transport to prevent soaking the animals and their bedding. The bottles should be replaced upon arrival to the destination.
2. If animals are transported while anesthetized, they must be accompanied by personnel who are trained and qualified to provide continuous monitoring and interventional care.
3. Avoid mixing new animals together just before shipment to prevent fighting.
4. Minimize loading delay for large animals.
   a. Chutes in arcs will promote forward movement of animals into trailers. Internal trailer lights may also encourage movement of animals into the vehicle.
   b. Low ramps should be used when necessary to bridge the space from the ground to the trailer.
   c. Prevent prolonged exposure to the elements during loading. Precipitation may predispose animals to chilling.
   d. Electric prods or other devices that provide a shock are prohibited. Flags or plastic panels are acceptable large animal driving aids.

5. Pigs are prone to motion sickness, and may need to be fasted 4-12 hours prior to shipping to prevent self-soiling and chilling (in cold weather.)

6. Water should not be withheld prior to shipment of animals.

7. Veterinary consultation may be needed for the transport of animals with pre-existing health conditions. Additional measures to promote health and safety may be implemented by veterinary staff. Vets may prohibit transportation if serious illness or death could result.

Vendor Transport

1. Vendors must comply with all federal and state animal shipping regulations and guidelines. The USDA Animal Welfare Act enforces shipping conditions for covered animals, and agricultural animals destined for biomedical use.

2. Shipping should be scheduled, or re-scheduled as necessary, to avoid moving animals during high-traffic (stop-and-go traffic) periods, blizzards, icy conditions, or excessively hot and humid days.

3. Temperature-controlled vehicles and trailers with proper ventilation are preferred. Large animals may be transported in enclosed trailers without temperature control under the following circumstances:
   a. Animals must be not transported in temperatures below 45°F for longer than 45 minutes unless accompanied by a certificate stating they are acclimated to lower temperatures.
   b. Animals must not be transported in temperatures above 85°F for longer than 45 minutes.
   c. When measuring temperature in the trailer, it must be measured not more than 3 feet from the wall at a height halfway between the top and bottom of the enclosure.
   d. A subset of vents must be covered to prevent wind chill during cold weather. Vents must be able to be opened fully during warm weather.
   e. Animals should not be in contact with the metal sides of a trailer in cold weather.

4. Animals must have secure footing in the form of mats or bedding. Straw is preferable in cold weather, while sawdust or wood shavings are preferable in the heat as they can be dampened to improve cooling.

5. For long trips, plan for periodic stops along the way to check the condition of the animals. Visual assessment of animals every 4 hours is the minimum recommendation. Water must be provided every 12 hours.

6. Partitions must be used when necessary to prevent overcrowding, fighting, and piling (which could lead to suffocation of bottom animals.)
7. Keep animal density in trailers low. Follow published guidelines in combination with the Livestock Weather Safety Index, or contact a veterinarian for assistance.

**Moves Within On-Campus Building Complexes**

1. Lab staff or RAR personnel may move animals between attached buildings in a discrete manner.
2. Rodent cages may be hand-carried or rolled on a cart. Cages must be covered to obscure them from public view.
3. Larger animals must be contained in an animal transport container, ie. stainless steel portable, pet carrier, NHP jump box, or other species-appropriate cage. The container must be escape-proof and attended by personnel at all times.
4. The least public route should be used including secure hallways and freight elevators (if available) to minimize the risk of public exposure to animal allergens and zoonotic diseases.
5. Use care in handling. Do not stack cages or crates in a manner which could result in tipping, falling, crush injury, or reduced air flow.
6. Transfer paperwork is required for any transport in which the animal does not return to its original housing room, unless the animal is used acutely. Animal transfer forms are available on the RAR website (see Forms.)
7. Return empty cages/transports to the original housing area or transport storage location for sanitation. If a lab is using its own transport box, it must be disinfected between animal moves.

**RAR Transport Between Buildings**

1. RAR provides transportation of animals between buildings Monday through Friday during normal business hours. To arrange for transport, contact the RAR Business Office at 612-624-6169.

**Animal Export to Other Institutions**

1. Exports of animals to other institutions are arranged by RAR. Please contact the RAR Business Office at 612-624-6169 or complete and submit a request to export animals to another institution (see Forms.) RAR maintains a list of approved animal transportation service providers.

**Exceptions**

1. In some circumstances, lab staff may be permitted to transport animals between buildings or to off-campus locations (ie. Itasca) on their own, and/or in a personal vehicle. This requires justification in the IACUC protocol and IACUC-approval.

**Moves of Animals with Chemical or Biologic Hazards**

1. Moves of animals which present a potential chemical or biologic hazard may require additional containment measures and/or personal protective equipment. Consult with a RAR veterinarian for assistance and follow applicable guidelines (see Biohazard SOP.)
Forms:
All forms related to transfers, transport, and shipping are available on the RAR website at [http://www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/siteindex.html#forms](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/rar/siteindex.html#forms). Go to the section titled Animal Transfer Forms.

References:


Oregon State University Animal Transportation Guidelines (some verbiage borrowed from this document) [http://oregonstate.edu/dept/larc/sites/default/files/pdf/transportation.pdf](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/larc/sites/default/files/pdf/transportation.pdf)