Policy # AW-02-2012

Policy Title: Animal Transportation

Policy: Transport of research or teaching animals within or between campus buildings is an essential component of animal use at the University and requires heightened attention to detail to ensure the safety and well-being of the animals as well as personnel who may come in contact with the animals. Transport of animals must comply with local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including USDA regulations specific to transporting animal species covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

General Guidelines:
Transportation of animals on the UConn campus must be referenced in an IACUC approved protocol or IACUC approved SOP. Transportation of animals must be planned to minimize transit time, address any occupational health risks, and protect the health and welfare of the animals, particularly in regards to temperature extremes, noise, overcrowding, and physical trauma.

ACS provides a fee-based van service to transport animals among ACS facilities on the Storrs campus and to transport rodents between the UCHC campus and the Storrs campus. Please call the main ACS office or contact an ACS manager at least two business days in advance to make arrangements.

Animal Science arranges and provides transportation for Farm Unit animals.

The use of personal vehicles to transport animals is permitted under very specific conditions (e.g. field collection) and these conditions must be described in an IACUC approved protocol.

Personnel must remain with or in the vehicle at all times when animals are on board. This applies to the use of both University and private vehicles.

Following each episode of animal transport, the cargo area or trailer must be cleaned and decontaminated.

Within buildings, small animals should be transported in covered or opaque cages, carriers, or containers that are escape proof and provide adequate ventilation. When using rodent cages, the top must be securely fastened to the bottom. If the animals need to be transported short distances between buildings, then an outer container must also be used. This outer container should be opaque, escape proof, provide adequate ventilation, and offer protection against temperature extremes and adverse weather conditions such as precipitation.
To avoid compromising ventilation or toppling over, stacking of cages and containers is discouraged.

All cages, carriers or containers used in transport must be able to be sanitized or disposed of after use to prevent cross contamination between animals of differing health status or different species.

For other animal transport issues including importing and exporting animals, please consult an ACS veterinarian.