

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL CARE

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Guidelines for Animal Transportation

Transporting research or teaching animals within buildings, or between buildings is a sometimes unavoidable task for those using animals at ETSU. Performing this simple task requires attention to a number of details to ensure the health and well-being of the animals and also of the people in and around the areas where the animals must pass.

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations must be followed when transporting AWA regulated animals. Transportation of animals must also comply with applicable state and local laws and regulations.

Many aspects of animal welfare addressed in federal regulations and guidelines play a significant role in controlling research variability. Maintaining ventilation, temperature and humidity; reducing stressors (temperature extremes, smells, excessive noise and confrontations with other animals); and maintenance of an animal's current health status by avoiding exposure to potential pathogens are some of the concerns addressed. Human health issues such as allergies of animal origin, microorganisms, chemicals, radioactive materials or escaped animals are addressed in federal regulations under "Occupational Health".

To ensure the regulations and concerns are addressed during animal transport, the ETSU University Committee on Animal Care (UCAC) has established the following guidelines for animal transport:

1. All methods of transporting animals must provide for the health and welfare of the animals.
2. Transportation of animals must be accomplished in a direct and timely manner, avoiding public areas as much as possible, especially areas where people are gathered and food is being consumed.
3. Animals must be transported in a cage, carrier or container. This primary enclosure must be constructed of materials that can be sanitized, or disposed of, and must be constructed to prevent the escape of the animals and the spread of pathogenic microorganisms, chemicals or radioactive materials. Also, the transport container must provide adequate ventilation (stacking cages or using fully enclosed cardboard boxes may not provide adequate ventilation).
4. Rodent cages should be covered with a well-fitting filter top to prevent bedding and animal dander from being released into the environment.
5. The transport enclosure should be covered with a sheet or shroud, small cages may be carried in a bag, to reduce visual stimuli (including bright sunlight) to the animals and protect the animals from public view.
6. Animals must not be transported with any other animal, substance or device that may potentially cause injury to the animals.
7. Enclosures containing live animals must be handled carefully. They must not be tossed, tipped, needlessly tilted, or stacked in a manner, which could result in their falling, or handled in any manner, which may cause physical harm or distress to the animals.

8. Temperature extremes must be avoided when animals are transported. When temperatures are below 45⁰ F or above 85⁰ F, special precautions may need to be used to protect the animals from cold/heat stress.
9. Empty, soiled cages (with or without bedding) should be handled in the same fashion as if they were occupied by an animal. They should be covered during transport and should not be taken through personnel areas. They should be returned to an animal facility as soon as possible. In the animal facility they should be left on a cart or on the floor in or near the dirty side of a cage wash area.
10. Cargo areas of vehicles used in the transportation of animals must be cleaned and disinfected to prevent contamination of future shipments.

The DLAR provides an animal transport service between Brown Hall and buildings located on the VA Campus. The service uses the DLAR truck and can accommodate the animal species used at ETSU. This service is available at no charge with a minimum of 24 hours advanced notice. For information about this service please call the DLAR at extension 9-8819. The DLAR should also be contacted for information concerning the transportation of animals to and from external institutions.

The Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) is charged with oversight of these animal transportation guidelines and can grant exceptions when considered to be in the best interest of the animal(s).