

UBC ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE
POLICY 003
TRANSPORTATION OF RODENTS FROM A UBC FACILITY TO ANOTHER
INSTITUTION

Date Approved: June 25, 2007

PURPOSE: This document covers the guidelines for movement and transport of research rodents from UBC to another institution. Failure to follow the guidelines could result in the veterinary staff refusing to provide the health certificate necessary for shipping the rodents.

POLICY: All animals being transported from UBC must fall under a current and approved Animal Care Committee protocol. All efforts to minimize stress to the animal must be taken. The transport of animals through public spaces should be minimized for the protection of animal and human health. Awareness of public sensitivity concerning the use of research animals must be considered at all times during the transport of animals. The possible consequences of the transport of these animals to animals and staff in the receiving facility must also be considered (see Procedures below).

RESPONSIBILITY: It is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that animals are being transported in a way that follows this policy. It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure that the receiving institution's staff have approved the shipment prior to sending the animals.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ANIMAL SHIPPING PERSONNEL

Take all measures to minimize stress to the animals during transport. This includes:

- Minimize transit time
- Protect against environmental extremes
- Provide adequate ventilation during shipment
- Avoid overcrowding or inappropriate mixing of animals
- Protect animals from physical trauma and undue stress
- Minimize the duration of time that animals are left sitting in transport cages before and after shipment.
- Ensure animal transfer is done in a secure fashion
- Provide adequate food and water source

MATERIALS:

- Commercial vendor transport box (opaque plastic) with dividers if necessary
- Bedding (standard facility bedding) and soft nesting material
- Transgel (available through Animal Care Centre if not otherwise available)
- Adequate food (several pellets per animal in cage)
- Animal Health Certificate
- Any other documentation required by the recipient.

PROCEDURE:

- a. Arrangements must be made with importing institution and their approval must be granted before shipping rodents. Normally this will require approval by the appropriate staff in the receiving facility

- b. Arrangements for inspection by the UBC veterinarian must be made for rodents being shipped outside of Canada. Call the Animal Care Centre at least one week ahead of scheduled transport to arrange the health inspection. The health inspection must take place within 24 hours of shipping. The UBC veterinarian must be able to visualize each animal prior to shipping either in their home cage or transport container.
- c. Arrangements must be made with a courier service to transport the animals. The Animal Care Centre will provide a list of recommended couriers, on request.
- d. Animals should be placed into transport cages immediately prior to courier pick-up.
- e. Social groups should be maintained during transit – boxes can be divided if needed, especially to avoid fighting. Males should not be remixed and aggressive males should be shipped in a separate compartment.
- f. Transport boxes containing animals should be kept in a temperature controlled, safe area until pick up by the courier service.
- g. Boxes should be labeled appropriately regarding handling requirements to ensure proper handling by transport companies.
- h. If transporting animals by vehicle, see the following guideline.

VEHICLE GUIDELINES:

- Vehicles should have adequate heating/cooling to maintain general animal comfort – special precautions or postponement for longer trips should be considered for temperatures below 7C or higher than 29C for most animals.
- Protection from direct sun is required.
- Animals must not be left unattended in vehicle for any length during transport.
- Animals must not be placed in the vehicle's trunk.
- Public transport (ex. bus, taxi, etc.) is **NOT** an acceptable means to move research animals.
- Transport containers should be fastened down.