



## Policy 361

# Intra-Emory Transport of Animals

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| <b>Responsible Official:</b>              | Research Administration                            |
| <b>Administering Division/Department:</b> | IACUC / Research Compliance and Regulatory Affairs |
| <b>Effective Date:</b>                    | 10/07/2009   |
| <b>Last Revision Date:</b>                | 07/20/2022   |

### 361.1 Scope

All transport of animals into the University and movement of animals between Emory animal research facilities (including the Emory National Primate Research Center (EPC) and Wesley Woods) must be approved by the Emory IACUC. Animal colonies at the university and its affiliates are valuable and of varying health status. The indiscriminate transport of animals may jeopardize animal health and threaten research. Transport of animals may only be done for bona fide scientific purposes and with verification by EPC and Emory University Division of Animal Resources.

### 361.2 Applicability

This policy applies to all Emory research related animal activities that fall under the IACUC's jurisdiction.

### 361.3 Guidelines

361.3.1 This policy addresses the following situations:

361.3.1.1 Transport of animals between Emory University facilities on the main campus, Wesley Woods, and EPC.

#### 361.3.2 Intra-Emory Transport of Animals:

361.3.2.1 Transportation of animals between animal research facilities or laboratories must be done by animal resources program transportation services, or other animal resources personnel approved to drive University vehicles and specifically approved to transport animals, unless otherwise specifically approved in an IACUC protocol.

361.3.2.2 Transportation requires the prior approval of the IACUC and the veterinary staff at the source and destination.

361.3.2.3 Private vehicles are not allowed for transportation unless specifically reviewed and approved by the IACUC and will be subjected to semi-annual inspections.

361.3.2.4 For purposes of preventing and containing infectious disease enzootic to animals, transport of animals between campus facilities should only be done when scientifically justified.

361.3.2.5 Transport of small numbers of animals can be done by researchers if approved by the IACUC. Rodents can be moved with one cage or transport container per person carried by hand or with multiple cages arranged securely on a cart in a manner to prevent toppling or spilling. Spills with loss or recovery of animals must be reported to the IACUC as an adverse event. When transporting animals between buildings or within buildings, cages must be properly concealed (e.g., shrouded) and secured to prevent exposure to the public and environmental elements, per the policy of the relevant animal resources program. Concealment must not compromise ventilation. Indoor pathways should be used whenever possible, and transport of rodents outdoors should be done with the understanding that the homeostasis of the animals and scientific experiments could be confounded by exposure to environmental conditions different from the animal research facilities (e.g., temperature, light intensity) or by disorientation, jostling, acceleration/deceleration, or jarring of the animals.<sup>1-3</sup> For the health of the animals and the reliability of research, such confounds should be minimized or eliminated.



361.3.2.6 Transport paths should minimize interaction with the general public. This includes the use of freight elevators and less populated areas whenever possible. Whenever possible, animals should not be transported through occupied hospital patient waiting areas. Transportation through public corridors, including routes and means of shrouding, must be described in an approved IACUC protocol.

361.3.2.7 To comply with the Georgia Department of Human Resources Public Health Division’s Food Code, the transportation of laboratory animals to and within areas where food for human consumption is prepared or sold, or through areas designated as dining areas, is prohibited.

**361.4References**

1. Conour LA, Murray KA, Brown MJ. Preparation of animals for research--issues to consider for rodents and rabbits. ILAR Journal 2006; 47(4):283-93. <https://academic.oup.com/ilarjournal/article/47/4/283/807735>
2. Hurst K, Litwak KN. Accelerative forces associated with routine inhouse transportation of rodent cages. JAALAS 2012; 51(5):544-7.
3. Moura PJ, Venkitaramani DV, Tashev R, Lombroso PJ, Xavier GF. Transport of animals between rooms: a little-noted aspect of laboratory procedure that may interfere with memory. Behavioral Processes 2011; 88(1):12-9.

**Contact Information**

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**Revision History**

- Revision: 06/19/2019
- Revision: 12/16/2016