Animal Transport and Biosecurity Policy

Internal transportation of animals within or between animal facilities and research / core laboratories should be accomplished with every effort to maintain biosecurity. Personal vehicles shall not be used since there is the potential for allergies, zoonoses, and other hazards associated with animal exposure. This includes transport of empty cages. Each animal facility is ranked according to the overall health status of animals from clean (least health risks) to dirty (greater health risks). Rooms within facilities are also ranked from clean to dirty. All personnel with animal facility access must obey the building and room rankings by entering clean rooms or facilities first, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) [shoe covers, mask, bonnet, gloves and disposable lab coat or coveralls].

Investigators are required to receive prior approval for the following transfers.

- **Room to Room Transfer** (within a facility): Contact the DLAM facility supervisor for prior approval.
- **Facility to Facility Transfer** (between Core and/or DLAM areas): A transfer request form must be completed ([Internal Transfer Form]) and submitted to the DLAM Animal Transport Specialist.
- **Institution to Institution Transfer**: A request to IMPORT from or EXPORT to other institutions requires the appropriate form(s) to be completed and submitted to the DLAM Animal Transport Specialist.
- **Facility to Room Transfer** (between a DLAM facility and research laboratory located in a separate building): The final destination for all animals must be outlined in the IACUC approved animal protocol or accompanying amendment(s). Investigators are responsible for transport from animal facilities to research or core laboratories.

DLAM is the only department authorized to routinely transport animals in vehicles between UNC facilities or to / from other institutions. DLAM has the right and responsibility to refuse requests of transfers that may compromise biosecurity of facilities. Contact the DLAM Animal Transport Specialist for more information (966-0711). If DLAM is unable to provide transportation, the investigator may arrange the use of a state-owned vehicle for animal transportation by the investigative staff. Personal vehicles may not be used for transport of research animals.

DLAM is not responsible for providing transport cages. Investigators should make every effort to obtain transport materials appropriate for each species. Secondary containment is recommended for appropriate species. Transport containers should not allow animal waste to be dropped on the floor and must be adequately sanitized.

Approved: 3/31/01, Revised 7/13/05, Revised 1/8/07, Revised 11/09/07, Revised 5/9/08, Revised 5/14/10.
after each use. Animals removed from a facility cannot be returned to the facility housing area unless prior approval from DLAM has been acquired. If DLAM housing cages are used for transport, please return the cages to their facility of origin. Each facility has a designated rack for return cages from outside the facility.

Transportation through public areas is strongly discouraged. If the animal(s) must be moved through public areas, provide opaque transport cages and cover the cage in such a manner that the animals are not visible and that the cover does not compromise ventilation. This rule applies to empty cages as well. Covering the empty cages will reduce the risk of health hazards to the public as well as reduce the curiosity of the public. DLAM has wheeled transport cages that may be available for use with larger species. Please contact the DLAM building supervisor if you wish to use these transport cages.