



Animal Transport and Biosecurity

Internal transportation of animals within or between animal facilities and research labs should be accomplished with every effort to maintain biosecurity (limit spread of pathogens or health hazards). 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). Also rooms within facilities are 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 contact DLAM for transfers between or within facilities to ensure animal health status and adequate space allotment.

- Facility to Facility Transfers: A transfer request form must be completed ([Internal Transfer Form](#)) and submitted to the DLAM Animal Transport Specialist
- Room to Room Transfer (within facility): Contact facility supervisor for prior approval.

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).

Investigators are responsible for animal transport from animal facilities to research laboratories. DLAM is not responsible for providing transport cages. Investigators should make every effort to obtain transport materials appropriate for each species. Transport containers should not allow animal waste to be dropped on the floor and must be adequately sanitized 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 Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (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.

Transportation through public areas is strongly discouraged. If the animal(s) must be moved through public areas please 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 (allergies) to the public as well as reduce the curiosity of the public. DLAM does have wheeled transport cages available for use with larger species; however DLAM requests investigators to check to see that the unit has a waste pan underneath before utilizing. Also, please return the unit to the building supervisor so it can be appropriately sanitized.