

Guidance on the Transportation of Animals within the University

Under ASPA, the person legally accountable for the transport of animals (the establishment licence holder) has the overall accountability for ensuring the planning, carrying out and completion of the whole journey, regardless of whether duties are subcontracted or delegated to other parties during transport. The establishment licence holder should ensure processes are in place to check that all necessary arrangements are in place to fulfil standard condition 4(6) of their establishment licence – namely that the conditions under which a protected animal is transported are appropriate for the animal's health and well-being.

Many factors have to be taken into account before transporting animals to ensure animal welfare is not compromised. This document has been drawn up to provide a checklist of things to take into account when transporting animals between bio-facilities within the University of Cambridge.

Animals

- Pregnant females must not be transported from 90% or more of their gestation period
- Females who have given birth should not be transported before day 7. Bearing this in mind, female rodents with litters cannot be obtained from suppliers before P7
- Neonates should not be transported before the navels have healed – day 3 onwards is acceptable
- Animals should be thoroughly checked for any signs of illness, injury or abnormal behaviour before moving and any deviation from normal health and wellbeing should be reported to the NVS or NACWO before animals are moved
- Group housing of male animals should not happen unless they were established in the group before moving
- Animals with particular phenotypes such as, a disposition to 'fitting' or other phenotypes that may cause them harm, must be assessed by an NVS before transporting
- Any animal that has undergone regulated procedures which may affect their fitness to travel, must be assessed by an NVS before transporting
- Any animal infected with a Biological agent must not be transported

Transportation

Animals may only be transported in vehicles approved by the University, no private vehicles are allowed. Scheduled movements by van should be booked in advance to ensure appropriate Named Persons are informed. Transportation using the UBS van is available by booking through the e-mail address:

Ubs-amb-orders@lists.cam.ac.uk



Photo 1

Photo 2

All animal movements within the University are to be undertaken by van, except where a risk assessment has been completed to move the animals by foot. Risk assessment (RA) have been completed and approved for movement of animals from the Downing site, the Gurdon Institute and the Department of Pharmacology on Tennis Court Road in central Cambridge and the Anne McLaren Building on the Biomedical Campus. The NACWO must be informed that the animals have arrived safely. (RA: Moving animals on foot between designated areas). Movements on foot can only be undertaken when journey time by vehicle would be significantly longer.

- Transport boxes must be supplied by the facility and designed for the species being transported and provide adequate protection and ventilation
- Transport boxes being moved by van can be placed in the plastic boxes in the rear of the van for secondary containment
- Animals to be transported by foot must be placed and carried in one of the carriers provided by the department
- One person competent in Schedule 1 killing for the species being transported is required when moving animals by foot
- At least one of the attending people must carry a fully charged mobile phone
- If there is a scientific requirement to move animals between designated areas, outside of normal working, requests should be submitted in writing, with the justification for consideration by AWERB, prior to movements being undertaken



Photo 3



Photo 4

Transport boxes will vary in size but must be purpose made and when moving outside of buildings must be used in conjunction with the holdalls provided

Documentation

All animal transfers must have their health status checked before they can travel and the receiving biofacility's approval to take the animals into the unit. They must also be accompanied by the appropriate documentation. Please speak to your Departmental NACWO for advice on what is needed for your department

- Animals taken for killing must have their details entered into a Euthanasia book and be removed on the MCMS database

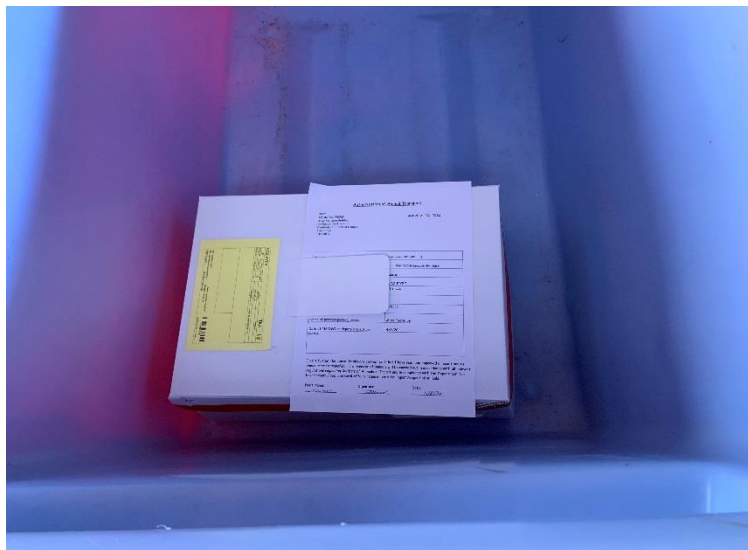


Photo 5

Food and Water

- There should be sufficient diet and fluid to sustain the animals for their journey and in case of vehicle breakdowns or delays
- If necessary gel packs or tubs should be opened before placing in the transport box and secured to prevent movement during transport



Photo 6

Bedding and Nesting Material

- Bedding material must cover the bottom of the transport box
- Additional nesting material should be provided without restricting the view of the animals
- Single housed animals need to be provided with enough nesting material to be able to help maintain body heat



Photo 7

In the Event of an Emergency

- If an animal escapes, this must be reported immediately to the NACWO(s), and in the case of GM animals escaping the NACWO must inform the Biological Safety Officer (BSO) for UBS
- If an animal is injured, it must be taken to either the destination, or the facility of departure, whichever is nearer and be killed immediately
- In either eventuality an incident report will have to be completed and sent to the ELH via the NACWO

References

Official Journal of the European Union (2005) Annex I **Technical Rules** Chapter 1, **Fitness for Transport**.

Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals Bred, Supplied or Used for Scientific Purposes.

4.4 Transport of animals

Section 2: This section contains legal minimum standards in force from 1 January 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishment-licence-standard-conditions/establishment-licence-standard-conditions>

Standard condition 4(6) of their establishment licence

General

Legislation for importing or exporting animals must always be followed and appropriate paperwork used thereby ensuring traceability of the animals. Transportation of animals between Institutions both domestic and International have different guidance. The legal requirements for fitness to transport are taken from Annex 1 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. Also refer to UBS SOP on Movement of animals between designated premises locally.