

**SOP No:** AHT 28(c)

**SUBJECT:** Transportation of Laboratory Rats and Mice – FOOT  
(May 2015)

**PRECAUTIONS:** Animal transportation should not be undertaken if an animal is likely to be exposed to temperature extremes (<5°C or >35°C).  
Avoid transporting heavily pregnant animals or those in early lactation. All cage furniture or food and water receptacles that are not fixed must be removed before transport.

**POLICY:** No laboratory animals can be moved into UQBR laboratory animal Facilities except by UQBR management. Any animals to be moved out of UQBR Facilities must have prior approval from UQBR to ensure regulatory compliance and appropriate transport methods. All reasonable attempts should be made to minimize stress to animals and these may include:-

- Transporting with cage mates
- Transporting in home cages ( if secure)
- Provide a nutrition/water source e.g. Agar/water/ glucose blocks.
- Darkened environment, low noise (<65dB)
- Minimum duration

Animals which are not sourced from or being introduced into UQBR facilities should follow all other directives within this SOP when transporting animals approved by UQ AEC's

**EQUIPMENT:** Specially constructed transport boxes or home cages within transport/cardboard boxes or fastenable bags

**PROCEDURE:**

- 1 If using the home cage, the lid must be secured to the base. The home cage must then be placed inside a secondary container, capable of confining the animal if it were to escape from the home cage or the container was dropped.
- 2 The secondary container provides a dark, sheltered environment for the animal to minimize stress. Secondary containers may include specially designed transport boxes, cardboard boxes, fastenable bags.
- 3 Animals should not be housed in such a fashion for longer than two hours as there is little provision for climate control or adequate ventilation.

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- 4 If a foot journey is likely to be more than five minutes in duration or during extreme temperatures (<5°C and >35°C), then using an air conditioned vehicle is preferred.
- 5 Animals not in home cages must be re-housed into appropriate caging as soon as possible on arrival.
- 6 Caution should be exercised when mixing adult males for transport. Animals should be monitored for aggression and re-housed into separate cages on arrival.
- 7 Animals subject to a Notifiable Low Risk Dealing (NLRD) from the OGTR e.g. genetically modified animals can only be transported between PC1 or above accredited facilities. The primary cage must be inside a secondary secure container and the act of transporting covered by the NLRD.

**DATE APPROVED:** 28.11.2007  
**REVISED:** 03.10.2012  
06.05.2015

  
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CHAIR OF AEC