

SOP No: AHT 28(a)

SUBJECT: Transportation of Laboratory Rats and Mice - AIR
TRANSPORT (May 2015)

PRECAUTIONS: Animal transportation should not be undertaken if an animal is likely to be exposed to temperature extremes (<5°C and >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 All laboratory animals that are to be used in UQBR Laboratory Animal Facilities must be arranged through UQ Biological resources. This is to ensure that animals can be sourced from the closest appropriate supplier and to ensure appropriate transport conditions are in place.

All reasonable attempts should be made to minimize stress to animals. Measures 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, air conditioning
- 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
nutrition/hydration packs

PROCEDURE:

1. Use specially constructed animal transport cages
2. Clearly Label " Live animals" and with Consignee's address and contact phone numbers
3. Lids must be firmly and positively secured to bases.
4. Cages must have viewing ports for assessing animal wellbeing during transport.
5. Air transport must be organized in climate controlled cargo sections by licensed, reputable carriers.
6. Select most direct route.
7. Ensure all documentation is in order to avoid hold ups.
8. Do not overcrowd, animals should be of the same sex and similar size and age.

9. Provide additional water and nutrient sources in case of hold up.
10. Animals should be re-housed into appropriate cage groups as soon as possible on arrival.
11. Caution should be exercised when mixing adult males for transport. Animals should be monitored for aggression and re-housed into separate cages on arrival.
12. Animals subject to a Notifiable Low Risk Dealing (NLRD) from the OGTR eg. 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.

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CHAIR OF AEC