

Standard Operating Procedure

Rodent Transportation within the University

Purpose: To describe the approved methods for transport of laboratory animals at Laurentian University.

Policy: CCAC and Laurentian University guidelines and regulations.

Responsibility: Researchers assigned to a study.

I. STANDARDS AND POLICY

1. All animals must be transported within the University according to standards outlined in this SOP.
2. Transportation must be in accordance with federal, provincial and local regulations as well as CCAC Guidelines.
3. Appropriate transfer cages or shipping containers which preserve the health status of the animals and minimize exposure to the outside environment must be used.
4. Transport shall be conducive to the health and well-being of the animals including maintaining acceptable environmental conditions within the transport enclosures.
5. Public view or observation of animals being transferred must be minimized or eliminated.
6. The route of transportation within the institution must be defined and approved. In most instances this means animals are transported from site to site without delay including arrangement for direct elevator when required.
7. Transfer of animals between buildings on campus is discouraged and for many circumstances prohibited.
8. Animals must be accompanied by personnel trained in the appropriate transfer and care of laboratory animals and familiar with this SOP.
9. Rodents should be transported in screened (filter-covered) enclosures (cages or disposal transport boxes).

- a. The interior of disposable transport boxes should be individually examined before direct disposal - such transport boxes should not be left in corridors for disposal.

Rationale

According to the CCAC Guidelines on: Laboratory Animal Facilities (Guideline 2), “movement of animals, cages and waste through public corridors and elevators should be avoided. The movement of animals outside the animal care facility should be discouraged due to stress caused to the animals, effects on research, contamination hazards and exposure of individuals outside the facility to laboratory animal allergens.

The Animal Care Committee(ACC) strongly discourages animal transport outside of the facility. Investigators wishing to do so must indicate this on their Animal Use Protocol with a thorough explanation as to why they feel this is necessary.

If the ACC agree to the transportation request, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlined above must be followed.