

Bates College- IACUC Policy for Transportation of Animals by Principal Investigators/Designated Employee of the College

The intent of this policy is to describe the approved methods to transport animals to the Bates College Vivarium when animals are not being transported by the institution of origin. This policy does not apply to moving animals between satellite facilities at Bates College.

Purpose

The importation and transportation of new animals to the Bates College Vivarium is a standard and common occurrence in day-to-day facility operations. Traditionally, animals are packaged and shipped via courier by the institution of origin, according to their standards. The majority of animals are transported to the animal facility this way. A small minority of animals may be eligible to be transported not by the institution of origin, but by the Principal Investigator or designated employee of the college qualified to safely complete the transport. This most often occurs when animals are being transported from an institution located near Bates College (<45 minutes via car). The Principal Investigator or designated employee of the college must follow college policies with regard to transportation expense.

Principal Investigators may prefer to transport their own animals to save on time and shipping costs. This policy is designed to provide guidance on how to transport animals while ensuring the safety and biosecurity of the transport personnel, the transported animals and the animals living in the vivarium.

Transport completed by anyone other than the institution of origin must first be reviewed and approved by the Bates College IACUC. The Principal Investigator is responsible for determining whether a Material Transfer Agreement is necessary and in place prior to transporting the animals. Animal transport should be completed by the institution of origin whenever there is a concern about animal/human safety in transit.

IACUC Policy

Rodents (Rats, mice)

Rodents must be packaged in an appropriately sized container ("primary container") that allows adequate space for animals to move freely for the duration of transport. The primary container must be air-permeable but must also have adequate filtration to prevent contamination between the container and external environment (ex: an autoclaved mouse transport container from Jackson Laboratories). The primary container must be placed in a "secondary container", such as a plastic tub with a locking lid with adequate airholes. Both the primary and secondary containers must be well labeled (ex: including but not limited to species, strain, and number of animals) and have an opaque covering. The total number of containers transported in a given trip may not exceed what the vehicle can safely transport (ex: what can fit in the vehicle while also adequately secured). Transport personnel may also wear a mask while completing the transport for added protection from allergens. The container should be sterilized before being used to transport rodents, and the same bedding and food consistent with what rodents were eating at their institution of origin must be provided.

Rodents should not be transported in a vehicle that has been used recently/frequently to transport dogs or cats. Animals must be transported in a temperature-controlled vehicle and must be secured while in transit to prevent any unnecessary jostling or shaking of the container. Transport personnel must follow

all traffic laws and practice safe driving while transporting the animals. Rodents with known pathogens/infectious agents may not be transported by Bates personnel. Transport must be arranged by the institution of origin when there is a concern about animal and/or human safety. Transport personnel must not eat, drink or smoke in the vehicle while transporting the animals. When transporting animals, personnel should treat the vehicle like a temporary satellite animal facility (and adopt all safety and hygiene considerations).

Aquatic Organisms (Zebrafish)

Aquatic organisms must be packaged in an appropriately sized bag/container (“primary container”) that provides adequate aeration and space for animals to move freely for the duration of the transport. The primary bag/container must be filled approximately 1/3 with water from the home tank, and 2/3 with air. The bag/container must have rounded edges (ex: double bagged) to prevent animals from getting stuck in the corners or crushed. The primary container must be placed in a “secondary container”, such as a plastic tub with a locking lid with adequate airholes. Both the primary and secondary containers must be well labeled (ex: including but not limited to species, strain, and number of animals) and have an opaque covering. The total number of containers transported in a given trip may not exceed what the vehicle can safely transport (ex: what can fit in the vehicle while also adequately secured).

During transport, care must be taken to secure the bag/container and cushioning (ex: Styrofoam container) must be provided to prevent unnecessary jostling or shaking of the bag/container. Animals must be transported in a temperature-controlled vehicle to limit thermal stress, and upon arrival to Bates College animals must be acclimated to their new home tank(s). This can include but is not limited to floating the bag in the new tank for a period of time (to acclimatize temperatures) and the gradual addition of new tank water to the bag/container (to reduce or eliminate shock caused by changing the water chemistry too rapidly). Animals must be observed to ensure they tolerate acclimatization well.

Transport personnel must follow all traffic laws and practice safe driving while transporting the animals. Animals with known pathogens/infectious agents may not be transported by Bates personnel. Transport must be arranged by the institution of origin when there is a concern about animal and/or human safety. Transport personnel must not eat, drink or smoke in the vehicle while transporting the animals. When transporting animals, personnel should treat the vehicle like a temporary satellite animal facility (and adopt all safety and hygiene considerations).

Contact Information

In the event of an emergency or incident during animal transport, the transport personnel should contact the Vivarium Coordinator, IACUC chair and the attending veterinarian, who will coordinate the appropriate response. For life threatening emergencies, transport personnel should call 911 first. Human safety must take precedence.

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