

## Policy on Transport of Research Rodents Through Common Spaces

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**PURPOSE:** This document covers the guidelines on the movement and transport of research animals between rooms in a UCSC animal facility (i.e. from an animal unit to a laboratory). The transport of animals through public spaces should be minimized for the protection of animal and human health.

**POLICY:** All animals that are being transported between rooms must fall under a current and approved IACUC protocol. All efforts to minimize stress to the animal must be taken.. Awareness of public sensitivity concerning the use of research animals must be considered at all times during the transport of animals. The possible consequences of the transport to the animals and staff must also be considered.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** It is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that animals are being transported according to this Policy.

Take all measures to maintain health status and minimize stress to the animals during transport. This includes:

- Minimizing transit time
- Protecting against environmental extremes
- Providing adequate ventilation during transport
- Avoiding overcrowding or inappropriate mixing of animals
- Protecting animals from physical trauma and undue stress
- Minimizing the duration of time that animals are left sitting in the transport cages before and after shipment.
- Ensuring animal transfer is done in a secure fashion
- Providing adequate food and water sources

### TRANSPORT CONTAINERS:

- Animals must be shielded from public view either by using approved (supplied by the vivarium) shopping bags with the Hepa filter tops remaining on the cages.
- Other transport containers for traveling longer distances are allowed only if they are approved by the IACUC and/or the Veterinarian. These alternative transport containers should always be covered to aid containment of potential allergens, pathogens, waste products and odors, while providing adequate ventilation (using enclosed impermeable containers or trash bags without air holes do not provide adequate ventilation). These alternative transport containers must provide food and water during the entirety of the transport
- Overcrowding must be avoided, i.e. the accepted housing density for the species must not be exceeded.
- Social groups should be maintained during transit.



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- Animals prone to fighting, such as male mice normally housed separately, should always be shipped in separate compartments.
- Cages must be escape proof and protected from unintended openings, i.e. they should have a latch or locking mechanism, rubber band, bungee straps, etc.
- All cages must be properly labeled.

## **PRACTICAL PROCEDURES:**

All animals returning to the vivarium must be held in quarantine in the animal receiving room.

If animals are to be kept in a lab for more than 12 hours, refer to the Alternative Housing of Rodents Policy.

Choose a route that is direct and of shortest duration avoiding traveling through major public areas