Principal Investigator: Date Approved:

**Biohazardous Animal Transport**

This SOP applies to transportation of animals that require ABSL2 containment through public areas by University of Utah personnel.

Transporting animals exposed to biohazardous materials, particularly through public areas, increases the risk for potential loss of containment and places individuals within the immediate area at risk for exposure. To mitigate risk, a leak-resistant animal transport container must be used to provide an additional layer of protection from spill or exposure and maintain separation between agents and public spaces.

****In addition, the movement of animals outside of ABSL-2 containment must be described in IBC and IACUC registrations and be approved by these entities. A detailed Standard Operating Procedure that meets the requirements describe below, must be included in the IBC registration. However, the IBC registration must also include a justification for the necessity for moving the animals out of the animal facility: convenience is not an acceptable justification.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

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**Procedures**

**Engineering Controls, Equipment, and Materials**

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| **Microisolator Housing** | Animal housing with a filter-top lid that provides enhanced protection against pathogen transmission |
| **Animal Transport Container** | A leak-resistant vessel that safely contains the animal(s) |
| **Disinfectant** | Appropriate to the agent(s) (see Decontamination and Disinfection SOP) |

1. Don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) according to instructions at facility entrance.
2. Animals must be transferred to a clean microisolator cage inside a Biosafety Cabinet or Changing Station. Inspect the cage to ensure the filter is intact, free of holes and clean.
3. Disinfect the exterior of the cage following the instructions in the IBC-approved Decontamination SOP: wipe down all surfaces with an EPA-registered disinfectant.
4. Ensure the cage is closed tightly and unable to open easily. Filter tops must be secured to the cage (ex: binder clips, tape, rubber bands).
5. Place animal cages within a leak-resistant, opaque secondary animal transport container, labeled with a Biohazard sticker.
6. Disinfect the exterior of the transport container following the instructions in the Decontamination SOP.
7. Remove PPE. Disposable PPE must be disposed as biohazardous waste and reusable PPE must be decontaminated. Wash hands with soap and water.
8. Place the transport container on a cart.
   1. The cart **must not** be brought into the ABSL-2 suite.
   2. Animals must be transported by foot and/or CMC approved vehicles and not in personal vehicles or on public transportation (e.g., campus shuttles).
   3. Place fresh PPE on the cart for use in case of a spill or loss of containment during the transfer.
9. Upon reaching the destination laboratory, don PPE (indicated on the Warning Sign and lab specific SOP) and transfer the transport container into the room.
   1. The cart **must not** be brought into the BSL-2 or ABSL-2 suite.
10. Remove the primary container (microisolator cage) from the secondary container and place inside a Biosafety Cabinet before opening.
11. Soiled cages, with filter tops in place, must be returned to the animal facility, following the procedures described above, by the end of the day. Prior to transport, they must be stacked in red, biohazardous waste bags that are taped (goose-necked) shut. All bedding and waste from animals will be managed by OCM husbandry personnel. Residual contaminated equipment must not be left in lab spaces.
12. Animals removed from the ABSL-2 containment facility **cannot** be returned to the animal facility and must be euthanized by the investigator in a timely manner. Animals are not allowed to be stored overnight in a biosafety cabinet.
13. Animal carcasses will be handled by the investigator and must be double-bagged in plastic biohazard bags, placed in leakproof secondary containers, and transferred to freezers in the animal facility, following the procedures described above.

**Cautions and Considerations**

* Proper PPE must be worn when handling animals or cages. Required PPE is prominently posted on the entry doors to all biocontainment rooms. PPE must never be worn in public areas.
* Never leave animals unattended during transport.
* Contact EHS Biosafety and OCM if biohazardous materials are spilled in public areas or if animals escape.