

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 701

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TITLE:	Transportation of Swine
SCOPE:	Animal Care Personnel
RESPONSIBILITY:	Facility Manager, Technical Staff, Veterinary Staff
PURPOSE:	To Outline the Proper Procedures for Relocation of Swine to Another Facility

I. PURPOSE

1. To ensure the highest quality of animal health and preclude the development of spontaneous diseases or disorders, which could compromise the integrity of studies and the interpretation of results.
2. To ensure personnel handling livestock perform their duties in a manner that complies with all current governing laws, regulations, and guidelines.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The Veterinarians oversee all aspects of animal health and are assisted by all program staff.
2. Facility Managers ensure implementation of all procedures.
3. Animal care staff are responsible for the implementation of this procedure.

III. PROCEDURES

1. Upon receipt of newly arrived animals, including those prepared for transfer to other facilities:
 - a. **Animals are observed for signs of illness, and injury.**
 - b. **The Facility Manager and a Veterinarian will be immediately notified of health concerns or deaths** occurring in transit.
 - c. The Facility Manager will **notify the Fiscal & Business Specialist of rejected shipments**, or orders improperly filled (i.e., weight, age, number requested)
2. Prior to loading animals ensure the box truck's refrigeration unit is turned "ON" and the set-point is set to and has reached 68-70 F⁰. Record the "Start" temperature on **CMDC 249 Vehicle Temperature/Sanitation Log** located in the truck cab.
3. Receipt of animals from the vendor:
 - a. Pigs are received in the CompMed garage.
 - b. With the garage door closed, pigs are unloaded directly into the transport cages.
 - c. Up to 3 pigs can be transported in a single transport cage.
 - d. Pigs may be housed in the garage until loaded on the truck provided the temperature is not extremely hot/cold.

- e. If extremely hot and loading is delayed they can be hosed down in the garage or held in the back hallway of the vivarium.
 - f. Likewise, if extremely cold they can be housed in the back hallway until loaded.
 - g. Text the animal weights to assistant director for assignment of numbers and to lab(s). Typically, the lowest weight is assigned the lowest number.
4. Loading/Unloading animals for transport:
- a. Ensure transport cage flooring is secured with hooks to prevent shifting during transport.
 - b. At least two staff must be present to load/unload transport cages onto/off the truck.
 - c. With the lift gate at ground level, load transport caging onto truck lift gate with lift gate cart stops deployed.
 - d. Ensure transport cage wheels are locked and raise the lift gate to truck body level.
 - e. Unlock transport cage wheels and move into truck body and secure against the truck body using the heavy-duty ratchet straps.
 - f. Ensure cage cards have been completed to include lab name and Room # filled in. Weight will need to be added.
 - g. To unload the above procedures should be followed in reverse. At the CAMLS facility utilize the stationary scissor lift to load/unload transport cages.
 - h. Record the "End" temperature on **CMDC 249 Vehicle Temperature/Sanitation Log** located in the truck cab
5. **Upon Arrival to CAMLS**
- a. While animals are still in the transport cage perform a physical exam. Gentle movements work best when checking body temperature, heart and respiratory rate.
 - b. Swine will be treated with Excede antibiotic at this time (ceftiofur crystalline free acid) 5 mg/kg IM once.
 1. Administer Excede IM in the rump area. In general a 50-70kg pig will receive 300 mg of Excede (e.g., 1.5ml of 200 mg/ml or 3ml of 100mg/ml)
 2. Use a 19g butterfly catheter or a 12" extension line with an 18g needle and 3cc syringe.
 3. Draw the Excede through the line into the syringe to the proper amount (otherwise, a portion of the dose will be lost in the dead-space of the line).
 4. Record administrations on the Progress Notes (use line below the pre-completed area.
 - c. Take animals to assigned room per cage card and relocated from the transport pen to the stationary pens. House groups of pigs the way they arrive from COM unless instructed differently. Social housing is the default method of housing.
 - d. **Any health concerns must be communicated to a veterinarian and the Facility Manager immediately and responded to prior to leaving.**
 - e. Administer applesauce/or simple syrup
 1. Use a 60 ml syringe for administering applesauce per os.
 2. Dilute each pouch with about 100ml of water and split between 8 pigs
 3. Also dribble some mixture over the lixits to help the pigs find/use the lixit by smell and taste.
 4. Rinse syringe for dosing applesauce on subsequent days.

5. Ensure water bowls are full
6. Give each pig 3 cups of swine feed.
- f. **Record in Progress Notes** if pigs are eating/drinking/taking applesauce on final check before leaving (use the line below the pre-completed area).

6. Prior to Departure

- a. Check/Record temperature and humidity for all rooms, refrigerators.
- b. Check collateral duties list for additional assignments.
- c. Report any out of range temperature/ humidity to the Facility Manager and document notification on the Health/Environmental Sheet.
- d. Ensure each pen has
 1. Feeder in place and locked.
 2. Water bowl.
 3. One hanging toy per pig (e.g., Porkpie, tire, apple, etc.)
 4. One ball per two pigs
 5. Housed in pairs- if all 4 pigs are compatible they can be housed on one side with all door open.
 6. Lock for each door bottom.
- e. Load caging on truck for return to COM for sanitation following the instructions in section III.4.
- f. Clean interior of shipping area. Clean Sally port of fecal matter. Discharge grey water from trucks holding tank down drain at CAMLS (not COM).

7. Return to COM

- a. Transport pens are unloaded and taken to cage wash for sanitation.
- b. The refrigerated cargo box is cleaned and sanitized after each episode of animal transport.
 1. Following each episode of relocating swine, feces are picked-up/removed, floors swept, and then floors (and sides if needed) mopped with a suitable disinfectant (e.g., Oxivir Tb, Quatricide PV, or Sporicidin).
 2. Record sanitation has been completed on **CMDC 249 Vehicle Temperature/Sanitation Log**.

Approved:

Date: