

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION
EMERGENCY PLAN FOR
NON-UW/PERSONAL VEHICLES**

Updated 04/23/2025

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INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1848, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the flagship campus of the Universities of Wisconsin. The main campus covers 936 acres in the city of Madison, and experimental farms and field research stations encompass more than 7,700 acres across the state. The University of Wisconsin-Madison has a vast and broad research enterprise. Animal research is an indispensable tool for understanding complex living organisms, and many university research programs study animals as models of human disease and to explore basic biological processes. At UW-Madison, an Institutional Official (IO) takes responsibility for the proper composition and function of the animal program and for compliance with all laws and regulations. Primary oversight of animal research on campus falls to four separate Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) covering different schools, colleges, and research centers on campus.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to:

1. avoid or minimize harm to people, animals, property, and research data,
2. provide humane handling, treatment, and care of research animals,
3. facilitate communication between transport personnel, animal facility staff, emergency services, and veterinary staff in the event of an emergency, disaster, or prolonged interruption during transport of animals by UW personnel.

Every scenario cannot be predicted; therefore, it is necessary to have a response plan that can be quickly adapted to events as they unfold. The following plan designates areas of responsibility and defines the administrative framework necessary to respond to incidents. The overall university response needs to be quick, professional, supportive, and meet the changing demands of the situation.

ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION

General Description

Transportation of animals is a joint effort amongst the various animal programs on campus. Sometimes, non-dedicated/personal vehicles are used to transport animals across campus and beyond to facilitate research collaborations, site changes, and import/export. Transportation needs may vary, from intra-campus transfers to traveling between campus and satellite locations.

Resources & Equipment

All drivers must carry mobile devices for communication purposes during animal transport. A copy of the Animal Transportation Emergency Plan must be kept in any vehicle being used to transport research animals.

Emergency Contact Information

Complete the attached [Transport Plan](#) for each trip. At a minimum, each vehicle used to transport research animals should have an emergency contact placard visible inside the cab that contains the following information:

THIS VEHICLE MAY CONTAIN LIVE RESEARCH ANIMALS

Emergency Contacts are below:

UW Veterinarian on Call: 608-262-2122

UW Police Department: 608-264-2677

(Additional program-specific or lab-specific information may be added here)

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Animal Health Emergencies

If animals are injured or experience a health emergency during transport, drivers should find a safe place to pull over and communicate with veterinarians and other pertinent personnel. Other personnel may include, but are not limited to, program management and receiving institutions. Some programs may have the supplies and ability to render treatment or euthanasia under the direction of a veterinarian.

Inclement Weather

(hot/cold, snow/ice, severe weather, etc.)

Current and future weather conditions should be monitored and reviewed for extreme conditions prior to each departure. Temperature requirements and overall human and animal safety are top priority. If current or future weather conditions do not allow for the safe transportation of animals, the trip(s) should be rescheduled or canceled. Programs should err on the side of caution and understand that conditions may worsen or change drastically throughout the trip.

In the event that conditions worsen during active transport, drivers should find a safe place to pull over and communicate with pertinent personnel. This may include, but is not limited to, veterinarians, program management, and receiving institutions.

Animal well-being must be monitored, and veterinarians must be contacted if animal welfare is compromised. In the event of severe conditions, drivers should call 911.

Accidents

If human injuries are involved, drivers must seek necessary medical assistance and call 911 first.

If able, drivers should ensure animal well-being and notify pertinent personnel. This may include, but is not limited to, veterinarians, program management, and receiving institutions. If animals are harmed because of the accident, drivers must consult veterinarians. Some programs may have the supplies and ability to render treatment or euthanasia under the direction of a veterinarian.

If the vehicle is disabled or if animal welfare is a concern, arrangements must be made for alternative animal transportation. If possible, this may involve temporary relocation to a more appropriate location to reload animals into another vehicle.

Unexpected Delays

Drivers may encounter a variety of unexpected delays while transporting animals. Drivers must communicate with pertinent personnel if an unexpected delay occurs. This may include, but is not limited to, veterinarians, program

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management, and receiving institutions. Proper communication will allow for alternative plans to be developed and to ensure animal well-being throughout the incident. Drivers must consider how the delay may impact animal well-being and the timeline of the trip itself.

If a mechanical problem occurs, drivers should attempt to pull over in a safe location away from traffic. If mechanical issues impact climate control, drivers may take extra precautions to maintain or improve the animals' environment.

If a vehicle is disabled or if animal welfare is a concern, arrangements must be made for alternative animal transportation. If possible, this may involve temporary relocation to a more appropriate location to reload animals into another vehicle.

TRANSPORT PLAN

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

1. **Call 911** in an emergency and/or use the contacts below.
2. **Notify the other transport parties of the incident (Originating Facility, Receiving Facility, Transporter)**
3. **Notify RARC Veterinary Staff**

Emergency Contacts – Originating Facility:

Police: _____

Fire: _____

Ambulance: _____

Facility Contacts:

1. Name: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____ Home: _____

2. Name: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____ Home: _____

Emergency Contacts – Receiving Facility:

Police: _____

Fire: _____

Ambulance: _____

Facility Contacts:

1. Name: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____ Home: _____

2. Name: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____ Home: _____

Emergency Contacts – Transporter:

Police, Fire, Ambulance: **Call 911 or use a web browser to find the nearest station.**

Transporter Contact:

Name: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____ Home: _____

UW Veterinarian On Call: 608-262-2122