

	Flinders University Safe Work Method Statement Rabbit – Transportation 18/06/19			
				College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facility
SWMS Number	RA Number		RA Score	
SWMS- 4.8	RA 4.8		Medium	
Contact Person	SWMS prepared by	AWC Approval Date	Review Date	
Roxanne Collingwood	Roxanne Collingwood	18/06/2019	June 2021	

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- Australian Code - Transportation of Animals
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Legislation

- *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th Ed.*
- *Animal Welfare Act 1985*
- *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*
- [Gene Technology Act 2000](#) (the Act)
- [Gene Technology Regulations 2001](#)
- *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012*

University Policy

- Work Health and Safety Policy 2013
- Responsible Conduct of Research Policy 2016
- NHMRC Guidelines

Local Policy

Use of the College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facilities by all staff and researchers of the College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University, is subject to awareness of, and adherence to the following:

Research Involving Animals:

- The University holds a licence for the use of animals for teaching and research purposes. To satisfy the requirements of the licence, anyone wishing to undertake teaching and research using animals must submit a proposal to the Animal Welfare Committee (via the Animal Ethics Review Sub-Committee. No work with animals may commence until written approval has been received from the Animal Welfare Committee. Standardised application forms for Research and Teaching can be found on the Flinders University website listed below. It is your responsibility to regularly check this site for updates to guidelines, forms etc
http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics_home.cfm

- **All staff and students involved in animal research must complete Animal Ethics Online Training (AEOT) and must also regularly attend Animal Researcher Information Sessions (ARIS).**

Safe Work Method Statement

Refer to Risk assessments, Safe Work method Statements for chemicals, processes and plant equipment where appropriate. All projects must have an accompanying Risk Assessment signed by the Animal Facility Manager

RA 4.0 Rabbit- Sexing, Handling and Restraint
 SWMS 4.0 Rabbit- Sexing, Handling and Restraint

Personal Protective Equipment Required

- **Gloves – to be worn throughout entire procedure**
- **Gown**
- **Mask**
- **Hair Net**
- **Shoe Covers**

Hazards and Controls

- **Animal bites- training, demonstrate competency, adhere to SWMS**
- **Animal Scratches- training, demonstrate competency, adhere to SWMS**
- **Animal Allergies- wear PPE when handling or handling dirty cages to stop the potential development**

Before Work Commences

Ensure that you are aware of the locations of the following:

- **Spill Kit**
- **Fire Extinguisher**
- **Eye Wash**
- **Exits**

Risk Assessment and SDS (Safety Data Sheet) - Ensure that you have read and understood for all the substances being used.

Equipment

- **Ensure that you have read and understood the Risk Assessment and Safe Work Method Statement**
- **Obtain training before using any equipment**

General Information

- **All procedures are to be performed by trained competent staff.**
- **Training is available from senior animal house staff or Animal Welfare Officer.**
- **Evidence of training is available in the “Training Needs Analysis”.**

Australian Code - Transportation of Animals

Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 8th Edition, 2013 - Section 3.2: Animal Care and Management

- 3.2.5 Methods and arrangements for the transport of animals must support and safeguard the wellbeing of the animals before, during and after their transport, and take into account the health, temperament, age, sex and previous experiences of the animals; number of animals travelling together and their social relationships; the period without food and water; the duration and mode of transport ; environmental conditions (particularly extremes of temperature); and the care given during the journey.
- 3.2.6 Transport methods and arrangements must:
- (i) be appropriate for the species and the circumstances
 - (ii) minimise harm, including pain and distress, arising from factors such as containment, movement, noise, disruption of social groups, and changes in the environment and personnel
 - (iii) ensure that animals are:
 - a. provided with appropriate food and water when necessary
 - b. provided with physical and social environment appropriate for the species
 - c. protected from, and treated for injury and disease.
- 3.2.7 Both suppliers and recipients of animals must ensure that satisfactory delivery procedures are in place, including receipt of the animals by a responsible person, accountability for animal numbers, and adherence to the regulatory codes, such as quarantine.
- 3.2.8 People responsible for monitoring animals during transport must be able to recognise and respond to animal needs during the transport.

Local and Interstate Transport

- Shipment should be organised by a courier company that specialises in the shipment of animals, and uses a climate controlled vehicle, and offers a **same day** door to door service.
- The preferred courier is Jetpets.

- Check the ambient temperature on the bureau of meteorology (BOM) website at both the place of origin and destination. Animals MUST NOT be shipped if the ambient temperature is 34°C or above at the time when transportation scheduled. (Note: interstate shipments will be collected from SOMAF by 9am and will be delivered at their destination before the interstate facility closes).
- Crates must be of a sufficient size to allow enough room for rabbits to be able to stretch out and turn around.
- Transport crates must have all holes and doors covered with insect proof mesh to minimise rabbits coming into contact with mosquitos and flies.
- **The Night Before transport:**
 1. Remove the rabbits feed the night before transport (so they are transported on an empty stomach). Small amounts of carrot are allowed to be given to rabbits during long transport.
- **On the Day of Transport:**
 1. Place a pad folded in half on the bottom of the crate for absorption, and add sufficient hay shavings to cover the bottom of the crate (not straw). Other environmental enrichment such as pine cones and small food blocks can be added to the crates.
 2. Check the rabbit ID and sex of each rabbit before placing them in their intended shipper. Ensure that pens and/or rooms of rabbits are not mixed if rabbits are travelling two per crate, as they will fight.
 3. Clearly label the crate with the senders and receivers; 1) name of the facility, 2) address, 3) name and phone number of a contact person, 4) rabbit/s date of birth, and 5) microchip number.
 4. Attach a water bottle to the front of the crate, ensure the door locks are in place, and finally secure the door with a cable tie.
 5. Ensure the crate and/or crates are handed to the animal courier personally.
 6. Once the animals have left the Flinders facility, ensure that the institution that is to receive the rabbit/s is emailed letting them know they are on their way and ask to be notified that the animals have arrived safely.



SWMS Review

This SWMS currently applies to the animals housed in the College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facility. This SWMS will be reviewed 3 yearly, but also updated more frequently as policies, techniques and animal care requirements change.

Position	Name	Contact Details
Manager Animal Facility	Roxanne Collingwood	8204 4380 roxanne.collingwood@flinders.edu.au
Animal Welfare Officer	Dr Lewis Vaughan	0450 424 143 awo@flinders.edu.au

Useful References

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1>

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/>

http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics_home.cfm

Any questions regarding the above guidelines and any technical advice/ assistance required can be directed to Animal Facility Manager.