USDA-APHIS Role in the Transportation of Laboratory Animals

Dr. Carol Clarke
Research Staff Officer
USDA-APHIS Animal Care
Collaborations

The US Department of Agriculture consults and cooperates with other federal and state agencies
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

APHIS mission: To protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources

Veterinary Services
Duties: Animal Health
Deputy Administrator - Dr. John Clifford

Animal Care
Duties: Animal Welfare
Deputy Administrator - Dr. Chester Gipson
Public Health & Disease Surveillance
Animal Health Protection Act

- Public Law 107-171,
- USC 7 § 8301 et seq,
  - One statutory framework for all animal quarantine & related laws

Animal Health Protection Regulations
9 CFR Chapter 1 Subchapters B-L.

The regulations describe in greater detail how the AHPA is to be interpreted
Animals of Interest

Livestock: includes but not limited to bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, equine, cervid, fish, and shellfish.
Relevant Functional Units

• National Import Export Services (NIES):
  – Oversight of import and export of animals as it pertains to agriculture.

• Science, Technology and Analysis Service (STAS)
  – Reference laboratory services

• Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services (SPRS)
  – Health surveillance and trace back
VS and Lab Animal movement

• VS concerned about impacts on US agriculture

• Becomes involved in the event livestock display symptoms of a:
  – Foreign Animal Disease i.e. Foot and Mouth DZ
  – USDA notifiable Disease i.e. Rabies
  – Bioterrorist (Select Agent) infection i.e. HPAI
Guidance Document #1103

Live Laboratory Mammals and Their Material (for research)

USDA permit required for the importation of live laboratory mammals when they have been inoculated with, or exposed to any exotic livestock or poultry disease agents, and originate from facilities where work with exotic disease agents affecting livestock or avian species is conducted.
Permit

VS 17-129: Application to import or transit live animals, semen, embryos and eggs for hatching

- Includes transgenic/knock-out mice & rats, other rodents, rabbits, ferrets, birds, blood, tissue, DNA, extracts, antibodies, feces, sera, and antisera for research purposes.

- blood, sera, antibodies, and antisera is limited to less than 1 liter

- excludes primates, dogs, cats, livestock, cell/tissue cultures & products
No animals, animal semen, animal embryos, birds, poultry, or hatching eggs may be imported unless a completed application has been received (9 CFR 92 and CFR 93).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0040. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1.7 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

**APPLICATION FOR IMPORT OR IN TRANSIT PERMIT**

(Animals, Animal Semen, Animal Embryos, Birds, Poultry, or Hatching Eggs)

**INSTRUCTION TO IMPORTER:** Complete and submit one copy to the Veterinary Services, APHIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. Prepare a separate application for each shipment.

1. **NAME AND ADDRESS OF SHIPPER IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

2. **NAME AND ADDRESS OF IMPORTER (Include Zip Code)**

3. **PORT OF EMBARKATION (From Canada show only for ocean vessel or airplane shipments)**

4. **COUNTRY FROM WHICH SHIPPED**

5. **MODE OF TRANSPORTATION (Name of Airline or Vessel, flight no.)**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>BREED</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Sex, Age, Registered Name and No., Tattoo, Tag No., Other Markings)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ensuring Import Success

If no permit is required then there must be written confirmation attached to each shipment that:

- live laboratory mammals have not been exposed to or inoculated with any livestock or poultry disease agents exotic to the US

- live laboratory mammals do not originate from a facility where work with exotic disease agents affecting livestock or poultry is conducted.
But Wait, What Else Can be in the Cage??
Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)

Imported animal enclosures containing fruit & veggies (food), and woodchips (bedding) may have plant harmful agents (insects, fungi, etc.)

- Fruits & veggies:
  - A permit may be required [PPQ form 586]

- Woodchips for bedding
  - Permits may be required [PPQ form 585]
  - Some products from certain countries are not permitted
  - Products require specific treatment before entrance
  - International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
  - USDA and CBP work jointly
Animal Welfare
AC Responsibilities

Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act

- Breeders
- Dealers
- Exhibitors
- Research Facilities
- Transporters and Handlers
Animal Care

Headquarters
Riverdale, MD

Regional Offices
Raleigh, NC
Fort Collins, CO

Center for Animal Welfare
Kansas City, MO

Areas of Expertise
Breeders/Dealers
Transporters
Exhibitors
Research Facilities
Emergency Management
Bio-physiology
Elephants
Non-Human Primates
Big Cats/Marine Mammals
Dog/Cat Kennels

Total: ~224 employees
Animals under the AWA

Covered species

• Live or dead warm-blooded animals used for research or exhibition, or sold for use as a pet
  – e.g. Dog, Cat, NHP, G. pig, Rabbit in teaching, testing & experiments

Excluded species

• Birds, Rats (*rattus*), and Mice (*mus*) bred for use in research
• Horses not used for research
• Other farm animals used in the production of food & fiber
• Livestock or poultry used for:
  – improving animal nutrition,
  – breeding, management, or production efficiency,
  – or for improving the quality of food or fiber
Animal Welfare Act


This law governs the care & use of animals in research for both gov’t & non-gov’t facilities

Animal Welfare Regulations

Code of Federal Regulations 9 CFR Chapter 1Subchapter A.

Every regulation listed in the CFR must have an enabling statute (in this case the AWA).

The purpose of the regulations is to describe in greater detail how an agency should interpret the law.

Animal Care Resource Guide Policies
Guidelines for regulation interpretation updated 3/2011
Definitions

• **Carrier**: Operator of any airline, railroad, motor carrier, shipping line, or other enterprise which is engaged in the business of transporting animals for hire

• **Intermediate Handler**: Any person who is engaged in any business in which he receives custody of animals in connection with their transportation in commerce
  – “Person” includes nonprofit or charitable institutions which handle dogs and cats
  – Definition excludes a dealer, research facility, a carrier, or operator of an auction
Regulatory Requirements

- Carriers and Intermediate handlers are required to register with APHIS.

- If not used/handled animals in 2 years can make a written request for inactive status
  - Notify APHIS within 10 days before re-starting
Covered Modes of Transportation

• Boat and Train:
  – Generally not commonly used

• Ground Vehicles and Airplane:
  – Common modes
Species Requirements for Transportation

• 9 CFR Chapter 1 Subchapter A Part 3- Standards
  – Subpart A- Dogs & Cats
  – Subpart B- Guinea pigs and Hamsters
  – Subpart C- Rabbits
  – Subpart D- Nonhuman primates
  – Subpart E- Marine mammals
  – Subpart F- All other regulated species
General Requirements for Transportation

• Cannot accept animal > 4 hr. departure time
  – Can get up to a 2 hr. extension
  – Need verification that food & water was provided within 4 hr.

• No transportation unless primary enclosure meets requirements

• Visual inspection at least once every 4 hours
  – Airlines: Inspect during loading and unloading

• Temperature requirements:
  – General range: acceptable ambient temperature 85°F to 45°F
  – No exposure to temp below 45°F unless there is a certificate of acclimation
Paperwork on Enclosure

Name and address of the consignor
Verification food & water given 4 hr. before delivery to carrier
*A statement the enclosure meets standards
The numbers of animals
Instructions regarding medications
Signature of consignor
Certificate of Acclimation
Primary Enclosure Requirements

• Labeled ‘Live animal’
• Able to withstand the rigors of transportation and strong enough to contain animal
• Animal secure within and cannot get a part of body outside of cage
• Quick removal in case of emergency
• Allow the animal to have adequate freedom of movement
Statements About Enclosures

• There is no provision for the consignor to provide a statement that a Dog and NHP enclosure meets guidelines.

• For these animals, the airline bears ultimate responsibility for judging enclosures.
Veterinary Statements

• Health certification:
  – Required for dog, cat, NHP
  – Signed by a licensed veterinarian 10 days before delivery to transporter
  – States animal is free of infectious disease, physical abnormality, which would endanger the animal, other animals, or public health

• Certificate of Acclimation:
  – Signed no more than 10 days before acceptance
  – APHIS accreditation required for all species except nonhuman primates, dogs, and cats.
Certificate of Acclimation:

Required when temperatures < 50°F:

1. Name and address of consignor;
2. The No. and ID of animals in the shipment
3. An acclimation statement;
   ✓ Animal acclimated to temperatures < 50°F but not < a minimum temperature specified on the certificate based on professional accepted standards for species, age and condition
4. The signature of the veterinarian and date.
Importation of Live Dogs

• Animal Welfare Act amended to ensure health and welfare of imported dogs

Prohibits the importation of dogs into the US for resale unless the Secretary determines the dogs:
• are in good health,
• received all necessary vaccinations,
• are at least 6 months of age.

✓ Excludes importation for research and health reasons, however there is no ‘blanket pass’ for research facilities to import unvaccinated dogs in poor health and/or under 6 months of age.
Requirements for Dogs Imported for Research Under New Rule

- Importers of dogs for research must:
  - Obtain an import permit
    - Form under development by Animal Care
  - Provide a health certificate for each animal
  - Submit evidence toAPHIS showing why the 6 mo. age, vaccination, or good health requirements would interfere with an IACUC-approved protocol
Inspections

• Performed by qualified Animal Care employees
• Vehicles & holding sites are inspected due to:
  – Routine regulatory requirements
  – Public complaints
  – Findings in research facility documents
  – Airline incident reports
• Frequency of inspections is determined by:
  – Regulatory requirements
  – Risked Based Inspection System (RIBIS) a proprietary program of Animal Care
  – An Investigative Action
Acceptable Standards

Live Animal Regulations (LAR)
Airline Incident Reports

Dept. of Transportation –
Aviation Consumer Protection Division
under 14 CFR § 234.13

- Requires U.S. airlines to file an Airline Animal Incident Report in the event of loss, injury or death of an animal during transport.

- APHIS receives this information as a monthly Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR)
Jurisdiction

• APHIS oversight of humane care also extends to carriers and intermediate handlers bringing animals into the US from foreign countries
  – Animal Welfare Act § 2143 (a)(4) outlines the standards for humane care and handling for animals during transportation in commerce.
## Compliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Registered (Active)</th>
<th>Routine Inspections Performed</th>
<th>#Direct NCI</th>
<th># Repeat NCI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARRIER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2013</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2012</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE HANDLERS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2013</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2012</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Animal Care Information System

- ACIS provides the public on-line access to inspection reports
  - Available due to a commitment to transparency
  - The inspection report history of a carrier and intermediate handler is available for the past 3 years
Animal Care Always Available for Guidance

Your VMO or Regional Office is available to listen!

Get updates through our stakeholder registry

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/new