Policy for Transporting and Handling Rodents in the Imaging Facilities (Bindley)

The Purdue MRI Facility is located in the Bindley Building. It is available for use by all investigative staff on campus, after staff have completed training in the housing area. The goal is to allow investigative staff to complete research while at the same time wanting to ensure the biosecurity of the rodent colonies on campus. Animal facilities/rooms on campus have different biosecurity/health designations based on the positive or negative serological status of the facility/room. As rodents of different serological status could be imaged using the Imaging Facility equipment, the Imaging Facility is considered “dirty”. As a result, unless arrangements are made in advance and the investigator understands the potential health impact to their colony, all rodents entering the imaging facility cannot be returned to their original animal room and must be taken to a designated post-imaging animal room to prevent the potential spread of disease on campus.

Equipment Available in Room B081 Bindley Building:

The 7T MRI, IVIS Lumina II and an intravital confocal is available for investigative staff to utilize to complete research projects. All systems are equipped with isoflurane anesthesia devices.

Prior to Studies Being Conducted:

1. Imaging using the above devices must be described in the investigator’s approved protocol.

2. Biosecurity Training for Bindley: Training is scheduled with Manager, CMAF (Bindley/MJIS) - Bethany Schoon at 765-496-0500 or bbonagur@purdue.edu to ensure staff is properly trained on handling cages in the transfer station and understanding the cubicles and rack systems in the housing room.

3. Staff utilizing the Bindley MRI must be trained in advance. Contact Manager of Operations, PU MRI Facility - Greg Tamer at gtamer@purdue.edu for training.

4. Prior to each imaging request requiring new animals be housed in an imaging housing room, a Mouse Rat Animal Movement Request Form must be filled out and turned in 3 business days before the requested imaging time. Ensure you have met protocol and training requirements or this can delay your approval for the housing space in the imaging housing rooms. If you want to move your animals yourself, the transport form must still be filled out (there is a box to indicate you will move the animals) as this form is used to monitor space needs in the rooms as there is limited housing space.

Note: Any animals exposed to infectious agents require a consultation with Radiological and Environmental Management (REM) and Centrally Managed Animal Facilities (CMAFs) prior to starting imaging project to determine appropriate handling and transport procedures.

In the HOME/Original Animal Room:

- Animal are to be changed into clean cages before being transferred to the imaging facility. The investigative staff is responsible for this. Arrangements can be made to have Centrally Managed Animal
Facilities (CMAF) move the cages to be imaged from their Home Facility to Bindley B087. Please contact animaltransport@groups.purdue.edu for assistance by selecting the box for CMAF to move the animals on your Movement Request Form.

Note: We strongly encourage staff to use the FREE transport offered by CMAF for movement of animals to Bindley imaging housing.

- If personal vehicles need to be used, the IACUC Animal Transport Guidelines should be followed (https://www.purdue.edu/research/oevprp/regulatory-affairs/animal-research/docs/Animal%20Transport%20Policy.pdf).
- If one (1) to two (2) cages are to be moved to Bindley:
  o Animals are to be transferred to a clean micro isolator cage for transport.
  o A rubber band is placed around each cage to ensure the lid is secure in transit.
  o Cages are placed into an opaque bag and the top covered
  o One hand must remain free in order to open doors during the walk over so each person may only carry 1 bag.
- If more than two (2) cages are to be moved from to Bindley: More than one person needs to assist with the movement or CMAF needs to move the cages.

On Arrival to Imaging Suite:

- Animals must be brought directly to Imaging room or imaging housing. Animals for imaging may only go to the imaging suite and the associated housing – they may not enter the main housing area near the imaging centers. They may not be left anywhere else in the facilities prior to or after imaging.

Upon Exiting Imaging Suite:

- All traffic exiting the imaging suite must leave directly or go to the dedicated housing. Staff are no longer considered clean enough to enter any of the animal facilities to prevent cross contamination.
- All animals, regardless of where they came from, having entered the imaging facility must be housed in B087 if using the MRI in Bindley. Animals are NOT to be returned to the original/HOME animal room. This is to prevent possible original/HOME room contamination subsequent to being used in the Imaging Facility.
  o Permission may be granted to move the animals to the LSA Imaging Housing Room (LSA 144) if cleared in advance.
- Housing space for species other than mice and rats must be coordinated ahead of time to arrange a room.
- A note card with the proposed end of study date is to be placed on the cages when housed in the imaging housing room.
- If cages are found to be present after this proposed date, animal facility staff will contact the PI to obtain status. Space in this room is limited and studies should be planned and schedules maintained accordingly.
- If animals need to remain in the imaging housing room longer than anticipated due to study reasons, the animal facility staff should be contacted to discuss arrangements for space.

Note: Animals with rodent infectious viruses are not to utilize the imaging equipment without clearance from the LAP Veterinary staff. (Norovirus is not included in this)
Note: CMAF Technicians work 6 AM to 2:30 PM so all requests for pick up and drop off must be during these working hours. If you have a pick up or drop off that MUST be outside these times, please contact Sylvia Schlegel at sschlege@purdue.edu.

Note: Temperature extremes need to be avoided when walking animals between buildings. Special precautions to protect animals from heat or cold stress or postponements are required when temperatures are below 45° or above 85° Fahrenheit. Inclement weather (e.g., rain) may also necessitate postponement dependent upon the planned mode (e.g., foot vs. controlled climate vehicle) and distance of transport.