

**University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Laboratory Animal Care Unit**

**SOP for Plastic Bag Use
for Rodent Box Transport**

This policy pertains to ULINE item #S-12350W: 20 X 10 X 30 white plastic bag 1.5 mil

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU) has purchased these bags as a means to facilitate the movement of boxes of rodents on the UTHSC campus. These bags were chosen as they are inexpensive, durable, opaque and of appropriate size. The use of yellow PPE gowns to cover cages and carts should be discontinued. The guidelines outlined in the UTHSC IACUC's Animal Transportation Policy must be followed when transporting animals within or between buildings. The policy can be found here:

<http://www.utmem.edu/research/IACUC/index.php?doc=policy.htm>

The following are some guidelines with respect to the use of these plastic bags.

- 1) Please ONLY use the plastic bags that are purchased through the LACU to transport your animals. Bags from any other outside source presents a health risk to your animals, if they have been exposed to insects or other wild or pet rodents.
- 2) It is highly suggested the each bag be used only once and discarded. IF you should reuse a bag, disinfect it by spraying with Clidox-S (1:18:1 dilution). The bag should then be rinsed and allowed to dry before reusing. Please be aware that the use of Clidox as a disinfectant will likely degrade the plastic over time.
- 3) One bag can carry either:
 - A) one rat box or
 - B) one mouse breeder box or
 - C) 3 mouse boxes (2 on bottom and 1 stacked across the lower two)
- 4) Do not allow bags to sit on the floor or ground as this increases the likelihood of contact with insects or wild rodents

Bags are sold in packages of 10 for \$5.00 and can be purchased at the LACU Coleman Building, 956 Court Ave, B106 (448-5656). Alternatively, you can purchase them through General Stores.