

## **NEW\_016 Transportation of Fat-tailed Dunnarts**

### **I. OBJECTIVE**

To describe the methods and procedures for transport of fat-tailed dunnarts by air and vehicle.

### **II. COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. All permissions from permitting bodies (animal ethics, state government, federal government, CITES etc.) must be procured prior to transport of wildlife.

### **III. PREPARATION**

1. Organise the courier service with the details for collection and delivery.
2. Prepare the pet carrier or Industry approved travel crates with the necessary supporting documents including:
  - a. Animal Ethics permit
  - b. DES permit
  - c. Any other permits relevant to the transport (federal permits, state permits etc.)
  - d. Order form/stickers for receiving body
3. Half-day travel: attach a 'Live Animals' form to the outside of the pet carrier with the sender and receiver information and contact detail. Write down number of live animals in pet carrier and the date of transport (see VI. Reference Information: Figure 1). If animals are being transported elsewhere within Australia or QLD (full day travel), JetPets will attach their own label.
4. Prepare transport containers for each individual.
  - a. Wearing disposable gloves, place clean shredded paper inside the transport container to create a hiding space (see VI. Reference Information: Figure 2).
  - b. Create a space in the centre to place the toilet roll.

Note: Long distance travel – if sending the fat-tailed dunnarts interstate or overseas, wean the individuals onto Nectar Moisture sachets (water in gel form) and appropriate feed (quarantine, legislative considerations etc.) one week prior to the date of transportation.

### **IV. EQUIPMENT**

- Individual transport containers (half-day travel)
- Pet carriers (half-day travel)
- Toilet rolls
- Shredded paper
- Cat kibble
- Sunflower seeds
- Live food / freeze dried insects
- Industry approved transport crate (long distance travel)
- Nectar moisture sachets (long distance travel)
- Supporting documentation
- Live Animal form (half-day travel)

NOTE: check other states or international import legislation in regards to sending feed with the dunnarts.

### **V. PROCEDURE**

#### **Transportation: half-day travel**

Note: Dunnarts should be prepared for transport as close to the time of pick up as possible.

1. Collect the individuals being transported one at a time.
2. Place each dunnart's toilet roll into a prepared transport container.

#### Conditions:

- Investigators named in an animal ethics application, relative to this SOP, must be competent to implement the SOP
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- a. This is done to maintain familiar scents during transport. For maternity females, add their shredded paper to the container as well.
3. Capture the fat-tailed dunnart and transfer it into the transport container (if possible maneuver the dunnart into the toilet roll before transferring the roll and the animal into the transport container).
4. Tape the individual dunnart's ID details to the lid of the transport container (see VI. Reference Information: Figure 3).
5. Place the transport container into the pet carrier.
6. Once all transport containers are in the pet carrier, ensure they are securely positioned.
  - a. Fill any gaps with calico bags to minimise movement within the pet carrier.
  - b. The carrier must have the HVWC manager's contact details clearly displayed (see VI. Reference Information: Figure 4).
7. Keep the pet carrier in a cool, quiet, dark location until collected.

**Transportation: Full-day travel or air transportation**

1. Complete the steps 1 to 4 for 'half-day travel' but use the industry approved transport crate. Line the bottom of the crate with corn cob substrate for insulation and comfort (see VI. Reference Information: Figure 5).
2. Ensure each dunnart is provided with sufficient feed for the length of their journey, plus an extra day. Feed to be provided will be subject to carrier and customs regulations.
3. Provide each dunnart with ample Nectar moisture sachets to last at least twice the length of the trip (1 day travel = 2 days' worth of moisture sachets).
4. Ensure that each crate clearly identifies the dunnart contained within (different carriers will have different methods of identification).
5. Keep the transport crate in a cool, quiet, dark location until collected.
6. Hand over the transport crate to the transport company, make sure all the permits and paperwork to accompany the dunnarts are handed over to the driver or attached to crate.

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 <p>THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA CREATE CHANGE</p>	<p>UQ Animal Ethics Committee - Standard Operating Procedure  <b>NEW_016 Transportation of Fat-tailed Dunnarts</b>          Institutional author: <b>UQ Biological Resources</b>          AEC Reviewed &amp; Approved: 13/10/2020</p>	Version 1
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## VI. REFERENCE INFORMATION

# LIVE ANIMALS

## PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IN THE SUN

**DELIVER TO:**

Rodrigo Suarez  
 Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
 Queensland Brain Institute  
 The University of Queensland  
 St Lucia Campus Qld 4072

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/2020

This delivery contains \_\_\_\_\_ live fat-tailed dunnarts.

Please phone Rodrigo (07 3346 6337) upon arrival at St Lucia.

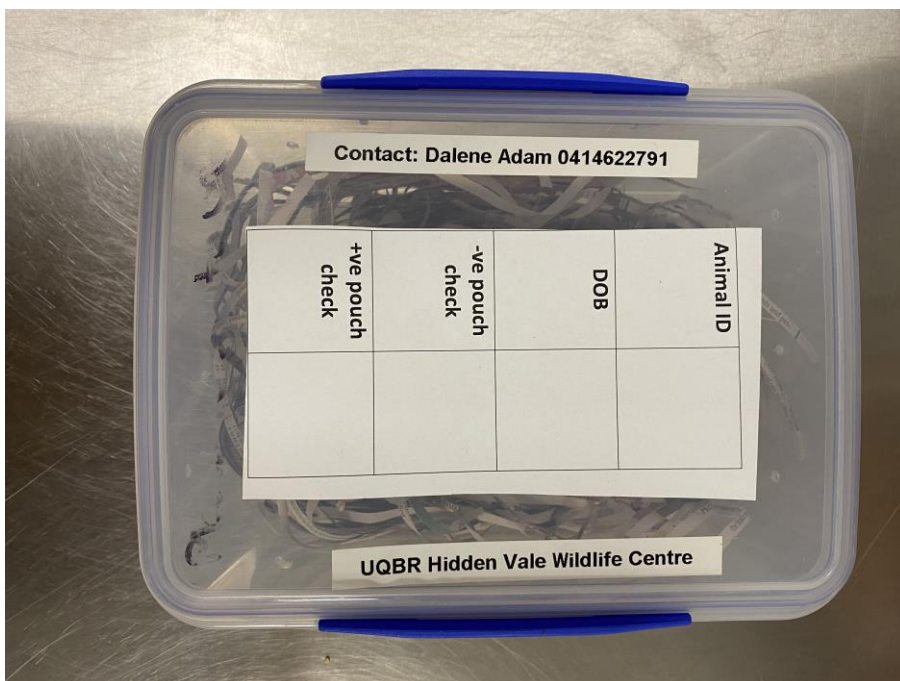
Permits: QBI/044/18; QBI/080/17; SAFS/538/18/BREED;  
 WA0008250

**Figure 1.** Example of a Live Animals form to be used in the half-day transportation of Fat-tailed dunnarts to the Queensland Brain Institute.

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**Figure 2.** Example of transport container (half-day transport) with shredded paper bedding.



**Figure 3.** Example of transport container with an animal ID sheet attached.

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**Figure 4.** Pet carrier in which the dunnarts are transported during half-day travel (dunnarts are inside transport containers, Figure 2-3).

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**Figure 5.** Industry approved transport crate for transport via air travel and long distance travel. The crate is lined with autoclaved corn cob substrate for comfort and insulation.

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