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By Nichole Royer No rats or mice can be shipped through the mail or UPS. Shipping is done via the airlines. Most airlines will not allow rats or mice to be brought on the plane Rats and mice must travel in cargo. Shipping is very expensive, so shipping a couple of pet rats or mice to someone is really out of the question. Shipping is very time consuming to coordinate. I have had several requests from people who live in other parts of the country and other parts of the world that would like to get rats or mice. There probably are others out there wondering about this as well. Most of us in California are more than happy to bring animals to people when we take car trips. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen very often. We all have the critters at home and, as I'm sure everyone is aware, it can be a nightmare to arrange for their care when you go on vacation. Most of the time we do not drive if we are going to travel, but instead fly. The airlines will not allow rats or mice to be brought on the plane like you would a cat or a small dog. All rats and mice must travel in cargo, and must be packaged and paid for just as they would if you were shipping them. Shipping Conditions More and more we are getting questions on shipping. Many of us in California will ship, however, only on certain conditions. The person we are shipping to must be a member of AFRMA. The person must get a full box of rats/mice. If they don't, it's not worth our time or their money, and the animals just don't travel well. The person must send all money before the animals can be shipped. The Nitty Gritty A full box consists of something like 8-12 rats and 12-20 mice (depending on size, age, and sex). In many cases, rats and mice can be shipped in the same box (the box is divided). Cost is usually about \$10-\$20+ per mouse, and \$20-\$40+ per rat. The actual shipping box* costs \$35, and the vet check that's required is another \$25-\$40. To The Airport Shipping is done via the airlines. No rats or mice can be shipped through the mail. The animals are delivered to the airport on this end and you pick them up at the airport on your end. Typically, the shipping charge runs about \$150-\$250 per box in the US. Shipping out of the country often requires additional paperwork (which has to be handled from the purchaser's end) but doesn't always cost more. Most of the time the person who coordinates the shipment will ask for a little additional money to cover their phone calls, driving, and time put into shipping. I would hazard a guess that it takes about 40 hours of work on this end to put a shipment together. Expensive Proposition Needless to say, this is quite expensive. Shipping a couple pet rats or mice to someone is really out of the question. Most of the time when we ship, it is not to a single person. Instead, it is to a group of fanciers who have gotten together to get a shipment. When you split the cost between a number of people who each then get a pair (or whatever the arrangement), then the cost is a lot more reasonable. When we have enough time, most of the California breeders will plan litters around shipments so that the people we are shipping to get what they want. Needless to say, this whole thing can be rather a project to coordinate. See Shipping Notes for more info. See also the article "Shipping To & Fro" Update 2014: Breeders have reported United Airlines now has a PetSafe® Shipping program for around \$75-\$90 for less than 10 pounds. Update 2015: AFRMA recently had an opportunity to use the HydroGel™ hydration packs by Clear H2O and while the rats did not appear to try them out, instead eating the carrots provided, they provided assurance that the animals would have a moisture source if needed. We recommend this product for those shipping or traveling long distances with rats or mice. We also used the United PetSafe® Shipping program and had very positive results. We used one of the Horizon (was Sage) Animal Shipping Containers along with one of the Taconic Transit Cages to split up the male and female rats and were able to tape the boxes together as one unit since there was only 1 spot available on the flight. The Sage container has small clear windows on the top where you can see the animals inside after packing them up along with a door in the lid where you can open the box without having to take off the entire top. One important note on health certificates: while United does not require health certificates to ship rats and mice, if anything happens to the animals, you must have one to get a refund. Another article you can read on shipping is, Shipping Rats by Meghan Rabon, Paper Heart Rattery, Hope, NJ. She points out about not overcrowding the boxes and shipments can possibly be done in the summer but only during the evening/night hours when it is cool. (archived page) Taconic had a Taconic Transit Cage Density chart that gives you an idea of how many animals to pack comfortably into one of their shipping boxes (archived page; the current page only lists how many mice per box). Update 2017: United PetSafe® Shipping no longer allows cardboard shipping boxes for rodent air shipments. We perform extensive testing and evaluation to ensure the health and welfare of JAX® Mice in transit. Our custom-designed JAX shipping containers have proven effective in maintaining the health and comfort of mice during shipping within the United States and overseas. Our shipping containers are reusable, recyclable and the ideal choice for transporting mice. Our shipping labels were designed with you in mind. Order Details: Quantity listed on label by compartment Sex labels utilized and placed in highly visible locations Peel and stick labels that identify animals in each compartment of the container; labels can be reused on cage cards Consolidated packing list per order Shipping container ID listed with contents on packing list Premium material type - varnished, chemical resistant Removable, tear-resistant label material Benefits And Details Key benefits: Designed for maximum mouse comfort and health Ideal size for transporting mice between facilities Autoclavable, reusable and recyclable Details: User-friendly lid with clear windows for easy inspection during transit Superior airflow through openings on two sides and lid Sonic-welded filter Partition insert for dividing container into two compartments as needed All plastic construction—no staples or wires Ideal size for packing and unpacking mice within a laminar flow hood or biosafety cabinet. Capability to interlock when stacked Used by JAX to meet International Air Transport Association (IATA) specifications Dimensions: Outside: 17.875" long x 11.670" wide x 7.5" deep Inside floor space: 121.28 square inches Nested (ten containers with lids): 17.875" long x 11.670" wide x 36" high **New** 10 Pack of Shipping Containers Must be ordered in multiples of ten containers All 10 pack orders are shipped via FedEx Orders will ship the Friday of the week following order placement Delivery via FedEx Ground will take up to one week Shipping Container Animal Health Statement Receiving, Unpacking & Recycling Customer service is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM ET. 1.800.422.6423 (USA, Canada & Puerto Rico) 1.207.288.5845 (International) Contact Customer Service At The Jackson Laboratory, we prioritize safe and timely delivery for our mouse models, both domestically and internationally. Our commitment to their well-being extends to significant investments in technology, including specially constructed trucks equipped with advanced environmental control systems. These systems ensure a low-stress, clean, and comfortable environment for the mice throughout the shipping process. JAX® Mice are shipped via our dedicated ground transportation network to over 99% of our USA and Canada customers. During ground shipment, JAX® Mice are provided with an environment that is familiar to them, alleviating stress. We utilize specially constructed trucks, engineered with environmental control systems that facilitate sanitation and air flow, to ensure a low-stress, clean, comfortable and safe ride. The environmental control systems alert drivers and JAX personnel to deviations, incorporate multiple backup features, and carry maintenance and support guarantees for all points en route. Carefully trained drivers understand the needs of JAX® Mice and of our customers. Animal Health and Welfare Mice are packed within the barrier facilities in which they are raised. They are shipped in our state-of-the-art, sterilized, filtered, highly protective shipping containers. Each container is supplied with fresh bedding, gelatinized water packets, and the same feed that the mice are fed during production. Even after journeys of 12 days, mice shipped by this method arrive clean and in excellent health. Freight and Container Charges Freight charges are based on the number of containers shipped. Order confirmations will indicate an estimate of containers needed. However, actual numbers may vary depending on housing of mice prior to shipment, and other welfare-related considerations. Invoiced charges will reflect actual numbers shipped. Discover More Customer service is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM ET. 1.800.422.6423 (USA, Canada & Puerto Rico) 1.207.288.5845 (International) Contact Customer Service Distance is never a barrier to accessing our mouse models. When it comes to destinations outside of North America, rest assured that JAX® Mice are transported via air, with meticulous attention to their welfare throughout the journey. We collaborate with carefully selected airlines and agents who understand the unique needs of our animals, ensuring optimal conditions en route. Our international shipping options offer flexibility to suit your preferences and requirements JAX® Mice are shipped to international destinations via air transport. Airlines and agents are carefully selected based on their ability to control conditions throughout the journey and their understanding of our animals' unique requirements. We offer two methods of shipping to international destinations: Port Delivery (Economy). We will arrange delivery to the nearest airport that will safely hold animals. You or your Customs Broker will be responsible for clearing the shipment through customs, paying local taxes (if applicable), pick up and delivery to your facility. Our Customer Service team will provide an estimate for the cost of this service. Your bill will reflect the actual number of containers shipped. This can vary from estimates, however the estimate is typically within 10% of the invoiced charges. Institution Delivery (Premium): We can also deliver all the way to your institution. The safety features are identical in both delivery methods, however, with Institution Delivery, we will arrange to clear the animals through Customs and transport safely to your doorstep. Our Customer Service team will provide an estimate for the cost of this service. Your bill will reflect the actual number of containers shipped. This can vary from estimates, however the estimate is typically within 10% of the invoiced charges. PLEASE NOTE: The cost billed by The Jackson Laboratory will NOT include local taxes. You will be responsible for payment of any local taxes and you will receive a separate invoice from our broker for this expense. Documentation Fees For International Shipments Documentation fees will be charged for preparation of special forms and certificates required for international shipments (outside the USA and Canada). Customers will be responsible for paying the full amount of documentation fees in the event that the customer cancels or changes an order and the documentation for the original order has already been processed. Animal Health And Welfare Mice are packed within the barrier facilities in which they are raised. They are shipped in our state-of-the-art, sterilized, filtered, highly protective shipping containers. 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