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Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep and Goats

Livestock Transport Requirements in Canada

SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED?
Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep & Goats

Load Healthy Animals

Do Not Load
Do Not Transport

STOP

Delay Transportation and Reassess

- Exhaustion
- Calving/lambing/kidding
- Weakness/unstable
- Acute mastitis
- Ketosis
- Fever:

cattle	> 102.5°F 39.1°C
sheep/goats	> 103.3°F 39.6°C

Euthanize

- **Non-ambulatory (see box below)**
- Fractures of limb or spine
- Arthritis with multiple joints
- Cancer eye (severe)
- Cancer/leukosis (extensive)
- Extremely thin
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever)
- Prolapsed uterus
- Water belly
- Nervous disorders, such as rabies must be reported to CFIA
- Hernia that impedes movement, is painful, touches the ground

Do Not Transport to a Sale

STOP

CAUTION

Transport With Special Provisions Direct to Slaughter

Animals with multiple conditions may not be fit to transport.

As Soon As Possible

- Abscess
- Blind
- Frost bite
- Cancer eye (eye intact)
- Lameness Class 1 & 2 (see over)
- Left/right displaced abomasum (without weakness, toxicity)
- Lumpy jaw
- Penis injuries
- Pneumonia (without fever)
- Prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Animals that have given birth within 48 hours

Within 12 Hours

Advise inspector at the destination plant.

- Bloat*
- Hardware with localized signs
- Intestinal accidents
- Recent injury*
- Urethral blockage (acute)*
- Broken tail or jaw

**Animals must travel in a small compartment, either individually segregated or with one quiet animal.*

Non-ambulatory Animals

- Unable to stand without assistance, or unable to move without being dragged or carried. Commonly called "downers."
- Animals should be able to bear weight on all four limbs to be suitable for transport.
- Lameness Classes 3, 4 and 5 can be transported for veterinary treatment on the advice of a veterinarian.

Emergency On-Farm Slaughter

If an animal is fit for human consumption but not fit for transport (i.e. injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter is an option. Emergency on-farm slaughter must be authorized by OMAFRA. The animal must meet specific food safety/animal health criteria and pass OMAFRA inspection prior to slaughter. To arrange emergency on-farm slaughter, call 1-888-466-2372 ext. 64230 or 64360. Visit www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/es-process.htm.

Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Cattle, Sheep & Goats

Federal Transportation Regulations

Health of Animals Regulations www.inspection.gc.ca

DO

- Segregate animals of different species, or substantially different weights and ages, or if incompatible by nature.
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage and absorption of urine.
- Have sufficient headroom for animals to stand in a natural position.
- Either strew the vehicle with sand or have the vehicle fitted with safe footholds, in addition to appropriate bedding.
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at least five hours and longer, if necessary, for all animals to receive food and water.
- Ensure that calves too young to exist on hay and grain are provided with suitable food and water at intervals of no more than 18 hours.
- Ensure that animals segregated in trucks receive extra protection from cold and wind chill; supply ample bedding.
- Euthanize animals promptly when you identify conditions outlined in the "Should this Animal be Loaded?" chart.

DO NOT

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering may result, or when the animal is liable to give birth during the journey.
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- Mishandle an animal on loading or unloading.
- Use goads or prods on the face, anal, udder or genital area.
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers not designed for safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

Source: Transporting Livestock by Truck (CFIA)

Lameness Classes

These categories can be used to determine the status of an animal's mobility, from normal to non-ambulatory.

Transport as soon as possible

Class 1
Visibly lame but can keep up with the group: no evidence of pain.

Class 2
Unable to keep up; some difficulty climbing ramps. *Load in rear compartment.*

Not Recommended for Transport*

Class 3
Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

Do Not Load or Transport*

Class 4
Requires assistance to rise; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

Class 5
Unable to rise or remain standing.

**** Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4 or 5 may be transported for veterinary treatment, on the advice of a veterinarian.***

Special thanks to the Ontario Humane Transport Working Group. Funding for this project was provided in part from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

OFAC
ONTARIO FARM ANIMAL COUNCIL

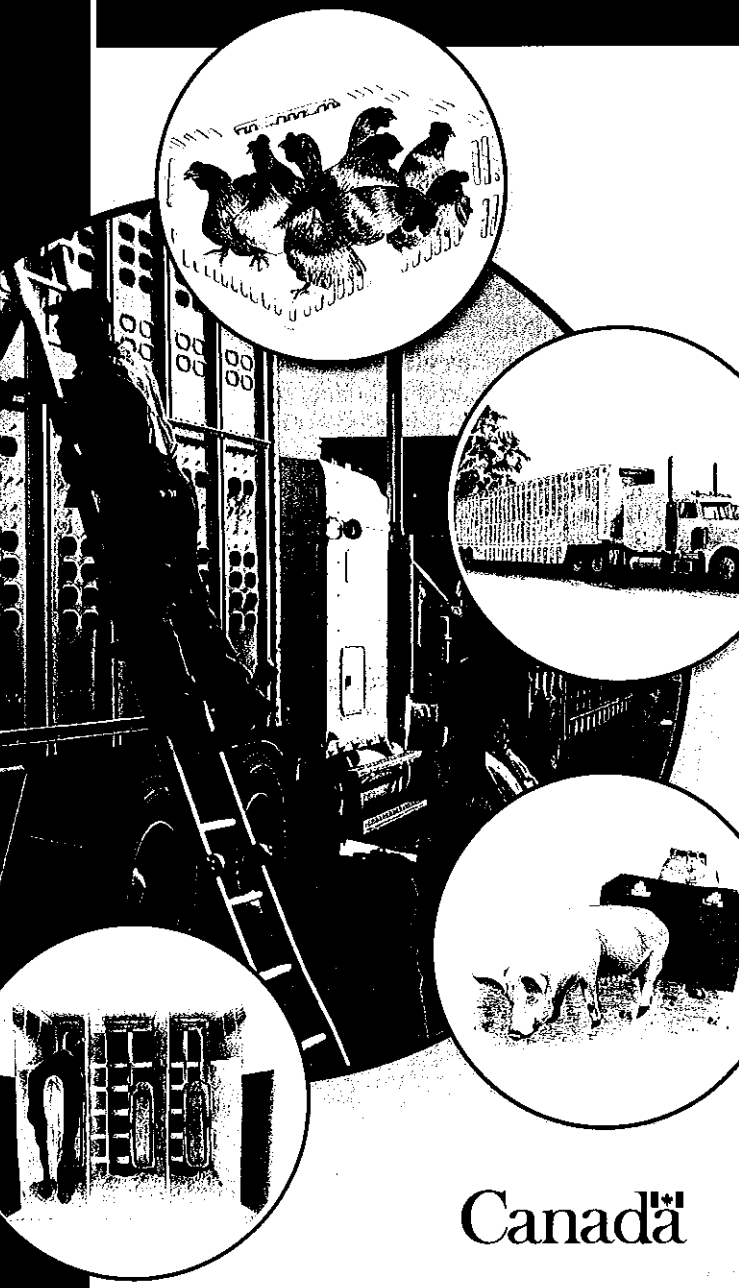
For more information or additional copies, please contact the Ontario Farm Animal Council: (519) 837-1326
www.ofac.org

Updated 02/2009

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Livestock Transport Requirements in Canada



Canada

Your Responsibility

Every person responsible for transporting animals in Canada must ensure that the entire transportation process—including loading, transit and unloading—does not cause injury or undue suffering to the animals.

The federal requirements for animal transport are covered under the *Health of Animals Regulations, Part XII.* They are enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) with the assistance of other federal, provincial and territorial authorities.

These federal requirements regulate the transport of pets, livestock, and exotic animals by all modes of transport—land, air and sea. Some provinces also have additional regulations related to animal transport.

Federal requirements for transporting livestock define:

- the conditions under which an animal is considered unfit for travel; and
- the transportation practices to be used during loading, transit and unloading.

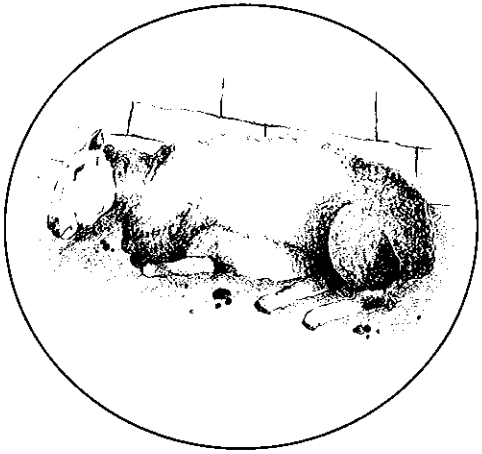
It is the responsibility of both the transporter and any person having livestock transported to ensure all animals being shipped are fit for the trip. This should be done by someone familiar with the animals or a veterinarian.

Compromised Animals

Compromised animals are fragile. They cannot handle the stress of transportation very well, due to such causes as injury, fatigue, poor health, distress, or very young or old age. Depending on their condition, compromised animals fall into two categories—those that can't be transported and those that can only be transported with special provisions.

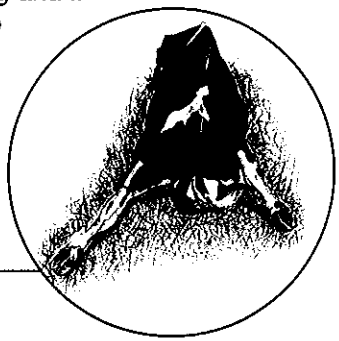
The transporter and/or the person having livestock transported must determine which category a compromised animal falls into.

Never transport an animal unless you are sure it is healthy enough to handle the stress of transportation. If you are not sure, seek the advice of a veterinarian or contact the CFIA before preparing the animal for loading.



Compromised Animals:
Do NOT Transport

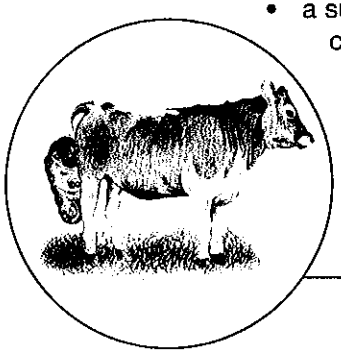
Some animals are completely unfit for transport. In this case, you must delay transport until the animal is fit for the trip if it is humane to do so (for example, when an animal has recently given birth). If delaying transport could result in undue suffering and if the animal is unlikely to get better on its own, the animal must either be treated or euthanized on site.



Do not transport due to split condition

Some **examples** of conditions where animals must not be transported include (but are not limited to):

- an inability to stand without assistance or to move without being dragged or carried;
- a fracture that considerably hampers mobility or is likely to cause severe pain when the animal is being loaded or transported;
- dehydration;
- exhaustion;
- shock or impending death;
- a suspected or confirmed nervous system disorder;
- fever;
- uterine prolapse;

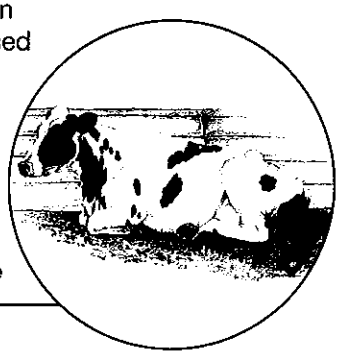


Do not transport due to uterine prolapse

- a hernia that impedes movement, is painful on palpation, touches the ground when the animal is standing in its natural position, or has an open skin wound, ulceration, or obvious infection.

Compromised Animals:
Transport ONLY with Special Provisions

If you can take steps to prevent additional injury or undue suffering, you can move some compromised animals. Transport these animals for immediate slaughter directly to the nearest appropriate slaughter establishment, keeping transport time to a minimum. **On the advice of a veterinarian,** you can transport a compromised animal to a veterinary clinic for treatment or diagnosis.

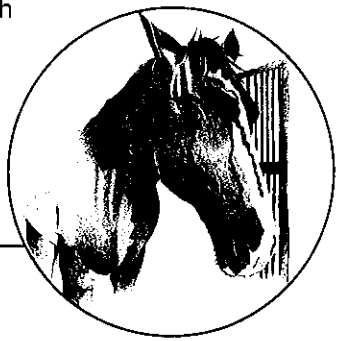


Transport with special provisions due to rectal prolapse

Some **examples** of conditions where animals may only be transported with special provisions include (but are not limited to):

- frostbite;
- bloat (if not weak or already down);
- laboured breathing;
- penis injury;
- blindness in both eyes;
- an amputated or missing limb;
- rectal or vaginal prolapse;
- a recent operation such as dehorning or castration that has not fully healed;

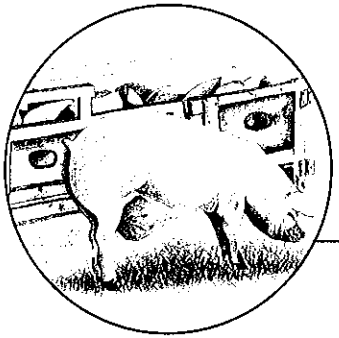
- a recent birth (the animal has delivered in the past 48 hours);
- an open wound with bleeding and/or exposed bone.



Transport with special provisions due to open wound

If you are not sure what special provisions to take when moving a compromised animal, **always ask a veterinarian.** He or she may suggest, for example:

- emergency veterinary care prior to transport;
- providing extra bedding;
- loading the animal last and unloading it first;
- separating it from other animals in the shipment; or
- transporting it with a familiar animal to help it remain calm.

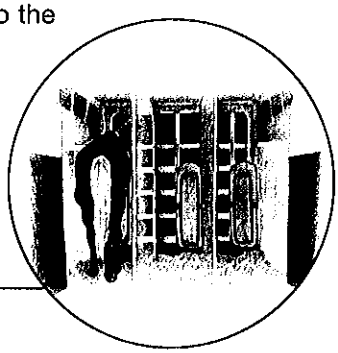


Transport with special provisions due to hernia

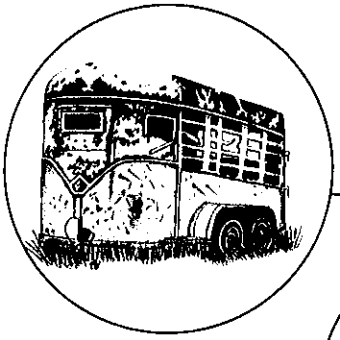
Transportation Practices

It is illegal to cause undue suffering to an animal at any point in the transportation process. Practices that can help protect animals during transportation include:

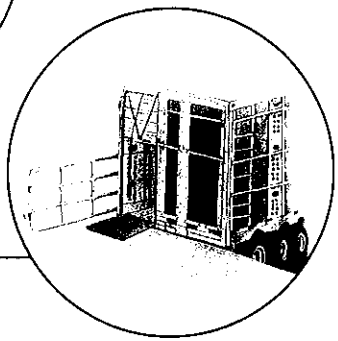
- using loading and unloading facilities as well as containers and transport vehicles suitable to the animals being loaded;



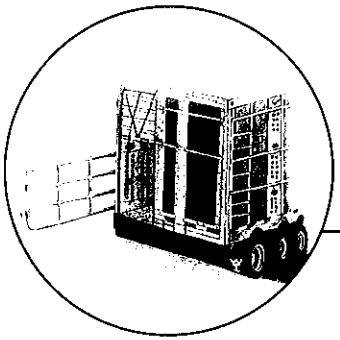
Suitable vehicle for transporting horses



Unsuitable vehicle for transporting horses

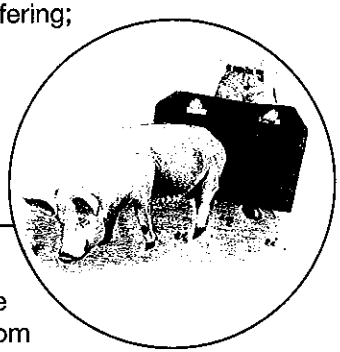


Configuration of loading facility is suitable



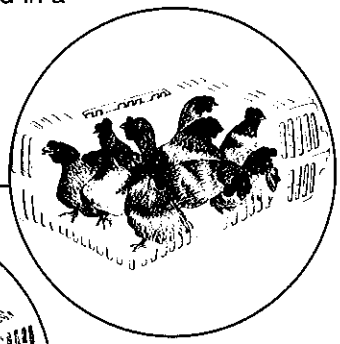
Configuration of loading facility is unsuitable

- using movement devices (e.g. pig boards) that do not frighten the animals or cause injury or undue suffering;

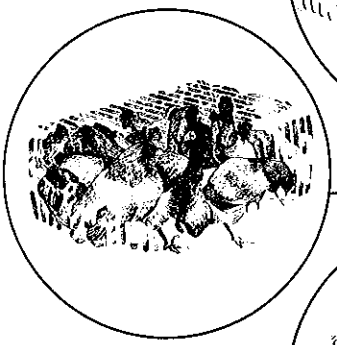


Appropriate movement device

- providing adequate space and headroom for animals to stand in a natural position;



Proper density



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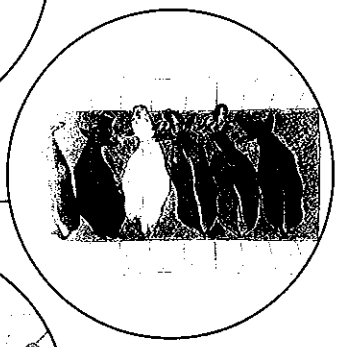

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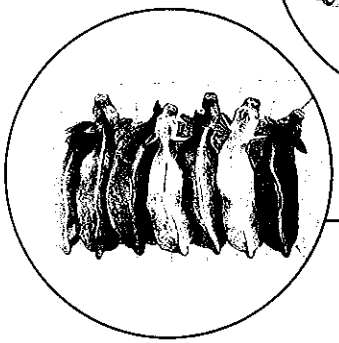
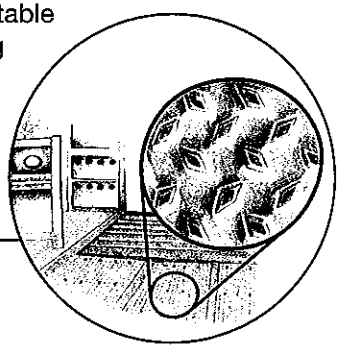


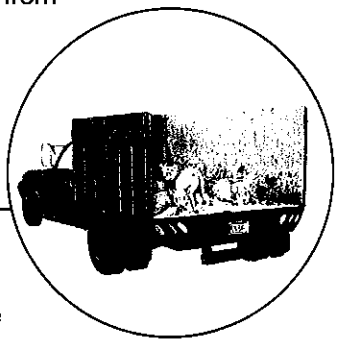
Improper density

- providing feed, water and rest at required intervals;
- providing adequate ventilation for all animals;
- providing non-slip, textured footing surfaces suitable to the animals being transported;



Textured flooring

- providing protection from the weather; or



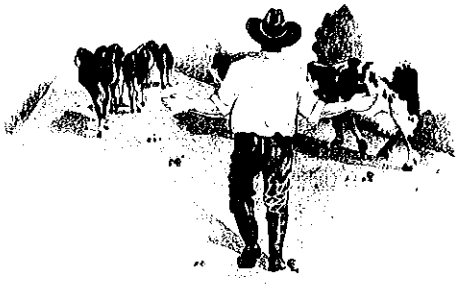
Insufficient protection from poor weather

- providing immediate attention, including veterinary treatment at the scene if necessary. If an animal becomes unfit for transport during the trip, it must be cared for, treated or euthanized.

Is That Animal Fit for the Trip?

If you are responsible for transporting animals, you **must** be familiar with—and follow—Canada's animal transport requirements. If you do not comply with the regulations, you could be fined or prosecuted. If your actions or neglect are considered animal abuse, you could also be charged and convicted under the *Criminal Code of Canada* and/or provincial regulations.

If you are not sure an animal is fit for the trip, contact a veterinarian or the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342. You can also visit us at **www.inspection.gc.ca.**



P0586-07
Cat. No.: A104-33/2007
ISBN 978-0-662-49079-1

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