

## Nine-Point Farmed Animal Transport Welfare Policy Requirements

Mercy For Animals supports and advocates for policies that at a minimum comply with the internationally recognized Five Freedoms<sup>1</sup> for animals:

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
- **Freedom from discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- **Freedom from pain, injury or disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- **Freedom to express normal behavior** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind
- **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

Accordingly, MFA urges the Canadian government to include the following requirements in its farmed animal transport regulations.

### 1. Journeys must not exceed eight hours.

- Confinement to a transport vehicle must not exceed eight hours if requirement nine below is not met<sup>2-5</sup>. Animals unfit for transport (see requirement five) must not be transported at all.
- Confinement begins when the first animal is loaded and ends when the last animal is unloaded.
- After unloading, all animals must be fed, watered, and rested for at least 24 hours before beginning additional journeys<sup>6</sup>.
- Provided that requirements 2–9 below are met, cattle, sheep, and horses may be confined to a transport vehicle for up to 24 hours<sup>7,8</sup> and poultry for up to 12 hours<sup>9</sup>.
- Pigs younger than four weeks, lambs younger than one week, and calves younger than 10 days may only be transported up to 100 kilometers, and should not be confined to a transport vehicle for longer than four hours<sup>9</sup>.

### For journeys of any length

### 2. Thermal environment must not cause suffering.

- Temperatures within transport vehicles must be kept 5–30°C and animals protected from precipitation and sun<sup>2,10</sup>.
- Temperatures must be kept 5–30°C in all parts of the truck (see Appendix A, Table 1). Humidity must be taken into account through the use of species-specific temperature-humidity indices. If keeping temperatures 5–30°C is not possible, transport should be delayed until conditions can be met.
- If a heating/ventilation system is installed to control temperatures, it must be able to operate for four hours independently of the vehicle engine. If there is no such system, provisions should be made in case of unexpected delays.
- Vehicles must be fitted with temperature sensors located in areas of the truck most likely to experience extreme climatic conditions<sup>11</sup>. Data shall be made available to authorities upon request.
- A warning system must be installed to alert the driver when temperatures within the truck exceed

acceptable limits. Immediate action must be taken when temperatures exceed these limits.

### **3. Animals must have enough space.**

- Transport stocking densities should allow animals to lie down if they wish, thermoregulate effectively, and assume natural postures and movement.
- Animals must be able to stand up after lying down and have sufficient head room to allow freedom of movement and ensure adequate ventilation (see Appendix A, Table 2).
- Stocking densities must be uniform across the vehicle (except for cases of solitary animals) and within acceptable limits. Where k values have been determined, densities must be based on the allometric equation  $A=k*BW^{0.667}$  in which A is area in m<sup>2</sup> and BW is body weight in kg. Refer to Appendix A, Table 3 for species-specific stocking densities. If ambient air temperature inside the truck is between 20 and 30°C, stocking densities must be sufficiently reduced to protect animals from hyperthermia.
- It is prohibited to cut the tusks of boars or otherwise mutilate animals in preparation for transport.
- The following groups must be transported separately:
  - Adult breeding boars, horned cattle, and stallions
  - Animals of different species
  - Animals of significantly different sizes or ages
  - Animals from different farms
  - Aggressive individuals (sexually mature males should be separated from females)
  - Horses, except for mares with foals (should be transported each in a separate stall)

### **4. Vehicles must be designed to avoid injury and suffering.**

- Vehicles must be easily cleanable and disinfected to prevent disease transmission; prevent animals from becoming injured, becoming stuck, escaping, or falling out; be anti-slip; prevent leakage of urine or feces onto other animals; and provide sufficient lighting and access doors to allow inspection and care of animals.
- All animals must be given bedding specific to species, age, and weather that ensures adequate absorption of urine and feces. Hygiene must be assessed before loading and upon unloading using a scoring system similar to the cow cleanliness assessment<sup>12</sup>. Where species-specific scoring systems do not exist, they must be developed. Bedding must be sufficient to ensure that hygiene does not decline over the course of the journey.
- Vehicles must have shock absorption sufficient to reduce the impact of vibration on animal welfare.
- When possible, hydraulic lifting systems should be used in place of ramps. When used, ramps should have solid sides and must be fitted with foot battens and be no steeper than 20 degrees for pigs and horses, 12 degrees for calves, and 26 degrees for sheep and cattle<sup>13</sup>.

### **5. Animals in compromised health must not be transported.**

- Inspect all animals prior to the journey to determine fitness for travel. A veterinarian must be consulted if any uncertainty exists or if the animal exhibits difficulty walking. Do not transport the following groups:
  - Animals who are unable to move without pain or assistance, have open wounds or prolapses, or have fractured bones, especially if transport will worsen suffering
  - Newborns with unhealed navels and females at greater than 90% gestation or who have given birth in the previous seven days<sup>14</sup>
  - Any animal who is likely to die during transport
- Exceptions will be made for sick animals who need to be transported locally for veterinary care per the advice of a veterinarian.
- Animals sent to auction must be completely healthy, uncompromised, and rested 24 hours with food and water between journeys.

**6. Feed and water deprivation must be prohibited.**

- Feed and water deprivation prior to transport is prohibited<sup>9</sup>, with the exception of pigs, who should be fasted four hours prior to transport<sup>5,6,15,16</sup>.

**7. Transport companies must meet strict requirements.**

- They must demonstrate sufficient and appropriate staffing, comply with transport regulations, and have no record of infringing animal welfare standards in the preceding three years unless it can be demonstrated that all steps have been taken to avoid future infringements.
- Drivers must obtain a certificate of competence indicating training in and understanding of animal physiology, drinking and feeding needs, animal behaviour and the concept of stress, ways to reduce handling stress in animals, driving methods that uphold high welfare of transported animals, a contingency plan in case of unexpected delays, and emergency care and euthanasia methods (see Appendix A, Table 4) for animals.
- Drivers must inspect animals for injury or signs of pain or distress within two hours of the beginning of the trip, upon loading, and at least every four hours thereafter, attending to any welfare problems as they arise. If animals become ill or injured during transport, they must be separated from the group to be treated or euthanized according to best welfare standards (see Appendix A, Table 4). The time and place of inspection must be recorded as well as any deaths or incidents causing suffering to animals.
- Careful handling of animals by workers should be encouraged over fast pace with incentives for farms and transport companies whose animal shipments have the lowest DOA numbers.
- Current laws regarding transport documentation must be well-enforced, with absence of documentation resulting in effective and dissuasive punishment.
- Vehicles must be fitted with electronic navigation systems that record the place of departure, place of destination, route, and opening and closing of the loading flap. Recorded information must be made available to law enforcement upon request.
- Vehicles must be clearly marked to indicate the presence of live animals.

**8. A zero tolerance policy for animal abuse must be established.**

- Penalties must be effective, proportionate, and dissuasive. Checks for compliance must be frequent and penalties harsh enough to deter regulatory violations. CFIA must establish a training program for local law enforcement agencies regarding animal welfare during transport.
- Offences should be prosecuted under the Health of Animals Act and the Meat Inspection Act as they were in *R. v. Maple Lodge Farms, 2013 ONCJ 535*. Violations that compromise animals' well-being should be considered "very serious."
- Install video cameras that live stream to the internet in catching and loading/unloading areas<sup>17</sup>. Cameras must provide high-resolution footage and operate at a speed allowing for real-time monitoring by the public and a third-party non-governmental organization.

**For journeys over eight hours**

**9. On long journeys, animals must have food and water.**

- All animals should have access to onboard food and water sufficient for double the planned journey length<sup>16,18</sup>.
- Food and water must be secure in clean, species- and age-specific containers that cannot tip over, will not freeze, and are protected from contaminants.
- Feed offered should ideally be the same feed to which the animals are accustomed. If different, the animals must be gradually pre-conditioned to the new food over a period of no less than three days.
- There should be water and feeding nipples sufficient in number to prevent aggression.

## Appendix A

**Table 1: Exceptions to temperature regulations of 5 – 30°C**

Species	Temperature Guidelines (within containers)
Broiler chickens and spent layer hens <sup>9</sup>	20 – 24°C
Newly hatched chicks <sup>19</sup>	30 – 36°C

**Table 2: Headroom Guidelines**

Species	Forced Air Ventilation	Minimum Distance from Top of Head to Ceiling of Container
Sheep and Pigs <sup>6</sup>	Yes	15 cm
	No	30 cm
Cattle (from tip of horns if present), including calves <sup>6</sup>	Either	20 cm
Poultry <sup>20</sup>	Either	10 cm
Rabbits <sup>21</sup>	Either	Minimum crate height = 35 cm
Horses <sup>22</sup>	Either	75 cm from the withers of the tallest horse to the ceiling

**Table 3: Recommended Stocking Densities or Allometric Equations to Calculate Stocking Density by Average Weight of Animal. Pregnant birds and mammals must be allotted 10% more space.**

Species	Additional Criteria	Equation or Stocking Density	Comments
Cattle <sup>9</sup>	Standing	$A = 0.019 * W^{2/3}$	
	Lying	$A = 0.027 * W^{2/3}$	
Sheep <sup>9</sup>	Shorn ewes	$A = 0.026 * W^{2/3}$	
	Fleeced ewes and lambs	$A = 0.033 * W^{2/3}$	
	Shorn lambs	$A = 0.029 * W^{2/3}$	
Pigs <sup>9</sup>	Finishing phase	$A = 0.027 * W^{2/3}$ $A = 0.036 * W^{2/3}$	All pigs must be able to lie down and stand up.
Goats <sup>23</sup>	<35 kg	0.25 m <sup>2</sup> /animal	
	25 – 55 kg	0.35 m <sup>2</sup> /animal	
	> 55 kg	0.58 m <sup>2</sup> /animal	
Horses <sup>23</sup>		1.75 m <sup>2</sup> /animal	Individual pens. During journeys longer than eight hours, foals and young horses must be able to lie down.
Poultry by age/size <sup>9,24</sup>	Up to day-old chicks	21 – 25 cm <sup>2</sup> /chick	
	<1.6 kg	180 – 200 cm <sup>2</sup> /kg	
	>1.6 kg	160 cm <sup>2</sup> /kg	
Rabbits <sup>9</sup>	>1kg, filtered crates	0.2 m <sup>2</sup> /animal	
	>2.5 kg, unfiltered crates	0.1 m <sup>2</sup> /animal	

**Table 4: Acceptable Methods of Euthanasia**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Acceptable Methods of Emergency Euthanasia During Transport</b>
Adult pigs over 5.5 kg	Gunshot, penetrating captive bolt gun followed by exsanguination or pithing, overdose of injectable anesthetics <sup>25,26</sup>
Piglets up to and including 5.5 kg	Non-penetrating captive bolt followed by exsanguination or pithing, overdose of injectable anesthetics <sup>25,26</sup>
Poultry	Penetrating and non-penetrating captive bolt gun; overdose of injectable anesthetics, including barbiturates and barbituric acid derivatives; manual cervical dislocation in chickens and turkeys less than 35 days old <sup>25,26</sup>
Cattle	Firearm, penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt gun followed by exsanguination or pithing <sup>25,26</sup>
Calves	Firearm, penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt gun followed by exsanguination or pithing <sup>25,26</sup>
Goats	Firearm, penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt gun followed by exsanguination or pithing, injection with barbiturates or barbituric acid <sup>25,26</sup>
Kids	Firearm, penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt gun followed by exsanguination or pithing, injection with barbiturates or barbituric acid <sup>25,26</sup>
Sheep	Firearm, penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt gun followed by exsanguination or pithing, injection with barbiturates or barbituric acid <sup>25,26</sup>
Lambs	Firearm, penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt gun followed by exsanguination or pithing, injection with barbiturates or barbituric acid <sup>25,26</sup>
Horses	Gunshot, overdose of injectable anesthetics <sup>26,27</sup>

## Supporting Literature

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