

WVA Factsheet

WELFARE OF FOOD ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORTATION

THE PROBLEM

- Transportation of food animals continues to present significant animal welfare risks as millions of live animals are transported each year.
- Tens of thousands of food animals experience poor welfare and death during transport caused by selection of animals unfit for transport, poor design of transport vehicles, poor facilities for loading and unloading of animals, poor pre-transport preparation and management of animals during transportation, poor driving skills, long transport journeys without access to water and food, lack of risk planning and monitoring during the journey, and lack of accountability and penalties for poor welfare outcomes.



WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Poorly transported food animals may endure extreme stress, fatigue, and sometimes injury and death, all of which significantly reduce animal well-being, and may additionally result in financial losses from carcass bruising and other causes of carcass downgrading.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND DUTY OF CARE

- Owners and managers of food animals have a duty of care to only transport animals that are fit to travel
- Animals must be prepared for transportation, respecting appropriate timing of feed and water withdrawal
- Those handling live animals for loading, transportation, and unloading must be skilled and use low stress handling techniques
- Transport companies should take a risk management approach for each journey, and use well maintained vehicles suitable for the species being transported. Drivers must be skilled, experienced in humane loading and unloading of animals, capable of monitoring the welfare of animals during the journey, and provide information to receiving personnel of any journey issues, especially if animals are injured and require treatment or euthanasia

HOW CAN THIS PROBLEM BE ADDRESSED?

- Observance of globally accepted animal welfare standards for transportation of all food animals
- Ensure that appropriate animal welfare regulations are in place and enforced, including establishment of industry quality assurance programs that consider monitoring of the whole transportation process through means such as compliance audits, with penalties for noncompliance
- Awareness, education, and training of all those involved in the transportation process about animal welfare regulations and requirements



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Promote development and enforcement of appropriate national animal welfare standards and regulations for transportation of food animals

Resources

Grandin, T. <http://www.grandin.com>, Accessed on 28 August 2016

Veterinaria Italiana (2008). Welfare aspects of the long distance transportation of animals. David B. Adams & Peter M. Thornber, editors. 44: 1.

World Organisation for Animal Health – OIE (2016). Terrestrial Animal Health Code, edition 23 and Aquatic Animal Health Code, edition 19

IATA, the [Global Standard for the Transportation of Live Animals by Air](#)