

SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED?

Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep & Goats



**Load Healthy
Animals**

**Do Not Load
Do Not Transport**



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

Non-ambulatory animals: Unable to stand without assistance, or unable to move without being dragged or carried (downers). **Do not load or transport.**

Lame animals:

- Lameness Class 3 is not recommended for transport.
- Animals should not be loaded if at risk of going down in transit.
- Animals that can't bear weight on all four legs may be in pain and are at risk of going down during transit. These animals are often euthanized at sales and plants.

**Do Not Transport
to a Sale**



**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
- 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.*

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 may be an option. Please consult with your provincial government for more information on the availability of emergency on-farm slaughter in your province.

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 through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program. This is a collective outcome partnership with the Agricultural Adaptation Council in Ontario, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development and Alberta Agriculture and Food.

For more information or additional copies, please contact any of the groups listed below:



www.afac.ab.ca
(403) 932-8052



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

www.facs.sk.ca
(306) 249-3227



www.mbfac.ca



www.ofac.org
(519) 837-1326