

SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED?

Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep & Goats



**Load Healthy
Animals**

**Do Not Load
Do Not Transport**



**Do Not Transport
to a Sale**



Delay Transportation and Reassess

- Exhaustion
- Calving/lambing/kidding
- Dehydration
- 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 in 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



**Transport With Special Provisions
Direct to Slaughter**

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

**Seek advise from your veterinarian
Advise inspector at the destination
plant.**

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

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

Animals with multiple conditions may not be fit to transport.

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:

- 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.

Lactating animals: Dry off heavy lactating cows before shipping when possible or ship directly to an abattoir.

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 (2010)

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.
- Spread sand in the vehicle or have 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.

*Note: The Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals - Transportation suggests no more than 12 hours between intervals for calves.

DO NOT

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering may result.
- Transport when the animal is liable to give birth during the journey, unless under the advice of a veterinarian for medical care.
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- 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.*

Do Not Load or Transport*

Class 3

Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

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.**

**CFIA Livestock
Emergency
Transport Line
1-877-814-2342
(Ontario only)**

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