



Transport Decision Tree for Cattle, Sheep and Goats

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

Load Healthy Animals

STOP

**Do Not Load
Do Not Transport**

**Transport With
Special Provisions**

(See reverse for transport regulations.)

**Delay Transportation
and Reassess**

**Transport Direct to
Processor as soon as
possible**

Euthanize

- Non-ambulatory (see box below)
- Fractures of limb or spine
- Arthritis with multiple joints
- Cancer eye (severe)
- Cancer/eukosis (extensive)
- Extremely thin
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever)
- Prolapsed uterus
- Water belly
- Nervous disorders, such as rabies must be reported to CFIA

**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." Assistance may not include any touching of the animal.
- Animals should be able to bear weight on all four limbs to be suitable for transport.
- Lameness class 3, 4 & 5 should not be loaded or transported, except for veterinary treatment.
- Animals should not be loaded if at risk of going down en route.

Animals may only be shipped to slaughter if:

- a. All drug withdrawal times are met.
- b. The animal is fit for human consumption.
- c. The animal can be humanely loaded and transported. If these conditions are not met, the animal must be humanely euthanized and disposed of according to all regulations.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN FOR ADVICE
OR ASSISTANCE.**

Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Cattle, Sheep & Goats

Federal Transportation Regulations

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 as the conditions outlined on the reverse occur.

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.

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)*



Endorsed by:
Ontario Association of
Bovine Practitioners

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Working Group members include: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ontario Farm Animal Council, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Ontario Trucking Association.
To order more copies, please contact Ontario Farm Animal Council: (519) 837-1326 www.ofac.org

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