

Transport Decision Tree



FIT ANIMALS

An animal deemed to be able to withstand the stress of transportation without experiencing suffering and that is expected to arrive at its final destination in good condition.

If unsure of animal's condition, contact a veterinarian.



COMPROMISED ANIMALS¹

TRANSPORT WITH SPECIAL PROVISIONS DIRECT TO FINAL DESTINATION

(not to an auction or assembly yard)

Examples of compromised conditions:

- Slight lameness²
- Contracted flexor tendons (calf walks as if on its "tippy toes")
- Limb deformity (not painful)
- Unhealed or acute penis injury (without significant bleeding)
- Acute frostbite
- Blindness in both eyes
- Bloating, with no signs of discomfort or weakness and not down (treatment on farm is recommended vs. transport)
- Open wound (a severe open wound would render the animal unfit for transport)
- Not fully healed after a procedure (e.g. castration, dehorning)
- Minor rectal prolapse (without necrosis or infection)
- Single, minor abscess (no fever, weakness or impeded movement)
- Pneumonia (without fever) (treatment on farm is recommended vs. transport)

Required special provisions

- Transport directly to the nearest suitable place, other than an assembly centre, where it can receive care or be humanely slaughtered or euthanized
- The animal is individually loaded and unloaded without having to negotiate any ramps in the conveyance
- Isolate from all other animals
- Measures are taken that are necessary to prevent the animal's suffering, injury, or death during loading, confinement, transport, and unloading

Optional provisions

- Load last and unload first
- Pen with one familiar animal
- Additional bedding



UNFIT ANIMALS

DO NOT TRANSPORT

Other than for diagnosis or treatment on the recommendation of a veterinarian³

Examples of unfit conditions⁴:

- Lameness other than slight⁵
- Non-ambulatory
- Unhealed or infected navel
- Fractured jaw, limb, pelvis or any fracture that hampers mobility or causes it to exhibit signs of pain or suffering
- Rupture of the pre-pubic tendon
- Weak or lethargic
- Bloat (signs of discomfort or weakness, difficulty breathing or non-ambulatory) Exhibits signs of a generalized nervous system disorder (e.g. rabies – must be reported to CFIA)
- Severe wound (deep or gaping, profuse bleeding or exposed bone)
- Extremely thin
- Listeriosis (listeria)
- Is in shock or dying
- Exhibits signs of exhaustion
- Exhibits signs of dehydration
- Exhibits signs of a generalized nervous system disorder
- Exhibits signs of fever ($\geq 39.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ [$\geq 103^{\circ}\text{F}$])
- Hernia that impedes movement; touches the ground when the animal stands; causes the animal to exhibit signs of pain or suffering; or has an open wound, ulceration or obvious infection
- Arthritis involving multiple joints
- Multiple abscesses or single, large abscess with potential systemic effects (fever, weak) or impedes movement
- Urethral blockage
- Pneumonia (unresponsive and/or fever, difficulty breathing, weakness, dehydration or respiratory distress)

Signs of pain are described in Appendix F.

- ¹ Section 136 (1) in Part XII (Transport of Animals) of the Health of Animals Regulations defines "compromised" and includes a list of conditions beyond those listed in this appendix that would render an animal compromised or unfit for transport (59).
- ² The animal has imperfect locomotion, a slight limp; the lame leg may not be immediately identifiable and the animal is able to bear weight on all feet. *Rationale: Even a slight lameness can deteriorate quickly in transit especially when the animal negotiates ramps during loading and unloading. This animal is at risk of becoming severely lame or non-ambulatory during transport.*
- ³ Section 139 (2) in Part XII (Transport of Animals) of the Health of Animals Regulations mandates that an unfit animal can only be transported directly to a place (other than a slaughter establishment or assembly centre) for veterinary care if (59): it is individually loaded and unloaded without having to negotiate any ramps inside the conveyance; it is isolated during confinement and transport; measures are taken to prevent the animal's unnecessary suffering, injury or death during loading, confinement, transport and unloading; and, a veterinarian recommends that the animal be transported to receive veterinary care.
- ⁴ Section 136 (1) in Part XII (Transport of Animals) of the Health of Animals Regulations defines "unfit" and includes a list of conditions beyond those listed in this appendix that would render an animal compromised or unfit for transport (59).
- ⁵ The animal is reluctant to walk, and exhibits halted movement or demonstrates one of the following: obvious arched back and head bob; obvious limp with uneven weight bearing; not bearing any weight on one leg which is immediately identifiable; or the animal must be strongly encouraged to move.
- ⁶ Unable to rise or stand without assistance or move without being dragged or carried, regardless of age or size. Note: it is illegal to drag an animal.