



# Transport Decision Tree

The transport decision tree is a tool used to help make animal transport decisions. It is a summary based on Part XII of the Health of Animals Regulations (HAR), and provides some examples. If ever in doubt, do not load the animal(s) and contact your veterinarian. Refer to Part XII of the HAR for official wording and guidance.



## FIT ANIMALS TRANSPORT

- Those fit for the intended transport process before transport begins are monitored on an ongoing basis and at a frequency to check that they remain fit through the journey (and if needed, receive prompt care). A fit animal are those that will arrive at their final destination in good condition.
- Maximum feed, water, rest (FWR) interval of 36 hours
- As indicated in the [Health of Animals Regulations – Part XII](#) (Transport of Animals) and CFIA [regulatory guidance](#)
- Consult also the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation*



### \*Special Provisions for Compromised Animals

Compromised animals, if loaded, must be transported **directly** to the nearest suitable place to receive care, treatment, be slaughtered or euthanized – but only with special provisions including, but not limited to:

- separated from other animals (*exception: one familiar animal is permitted to accompany the compromised animal if it is not likely to cause suffering, injury or death to either animal*)
- loaded individually in rear compartment (without having to negotiate ramps within the conveyance)
- measures taken to prevent animal's suffering (e.g. extra bedding, pain medication, frequent access to feed and water, etc..)
- local direct transport only - **not taken to an assembly centre to be sold**
- provided with access to feed, water and rest in intervals of no more than 12 hours
- **other measures as appropriate** (e.g. veterinary assessment prior to loading when unsure of animal's capacity to withstand transportation)



## COMPROMISED ANIMALS TRANSPORT WITH SPECIAL PROVISIONS\*

(Health of Animals Regulations [Part XII](#))

### Examples:

- Abscess (single and/or open, causing discomfort, pain or interfering with movement)
- Acute penis injury
- Amputation or deformity (only if fully healed and not painful)
- Blindness in both eyes
- Bloated (if not weak or already down)
- Broken horn or scur (with evidence of bleeding or infection)
- Heavy lactation if not milked at intervals to prevent mammary engorgement
- Mild lameness (refer to *App L*) able to bear weight and keep up with the group (any lame animal other than those listed as unfit is considered compromised)
- Intermittent or treated rectal or vaginal prolapse
- Not fully healed after surgical procedures, such as dehorning or castration
- Open wound (depending on the severity of the wound, the animal may be unfit, e.g. laceration, puncture)
- Orf lesions that are painful, interfering with eating or appear infected
- Overgrown hooves that impede the mobility of the goat (refer to *Appendix H*)
- Vulnerable animals ( $\leq 8$  days of age, kids solely on milk)

**Do not continue to transport an animal that becomes compromised or unfit beyond the nearest available place where it can receive care, be euthanized or slaughtered.**



## UNFIT ANIMALS DO NOT TRANSPORT

*\*\*Other than under the advice of a veterinarian*

### Examples:

- Any tendon/ligament/nerve damage that causes impaired function or movement
- Body condition score (BCS)  $< 1$
- Body condition score (BCS)  $< 2$  and evidence of weakness or exercise intolerance
- Bloated to extent signs of discomfort or weakness are exhibited
- Fracture (e.g. limb, jaw, penis)
- Gangrenous udder
- In shock or dying
- Laboured breathing (e.g. Pneumonia)
- Likely to give birth (i.e. last 15 days of pregnancy) or has given birth in preceding 48 hours
- Mastitis (e.g. clinical mastitis causing pain, fever, blue bag, swelling, etc..)
- Multiple abscesses affecting the animals welfare (i.e. open or painful)
- Neurologic signs (e.g. lack of balance or seizures)
- Prolapsed uterus, severe rectal, or severe vaginal prolapse
- Rectal temperature  $> 40^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Retained placenta (e.g.  $> 48$  hours) or metritis (vaginal discharge, systemic infection)
- Severe lameness (e.g. non-weight bearing on one or more limbs, reluctant or unable to move, refer to Appendix K)
- Severe open wound
- Signs of dehydration (tacky mucous membranes, skin tent over eye, sunken eye)
- Signs of hyperthermia (rectal temperature  $> 40.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , panting, openmouth breathing) or hypothermia (rectal temperature  $< 37^{\circ}\text{C}$ , cold extremities, shivering, hunched appearance)
- Unable to rise, remain standing, move without assistance, or reluctant to move (non-ambulatory)
- Unhealed or infected navel

**\*\*\*Refer to Section 7.1 for exceptions for loading unfit animals.**

Source: Adapted from the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle (2013). Available at: [www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle](http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle).