

Appendix H: Guidelines for Transporting Sheep

Updated 06/13

SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED?

Load Healthy Animals

Do Not Load
Do Not Transport¹



Do Not Transport to a Sale or to a Collection Yard



Delay Transport, Provide Prompt Treatment and Reassess

- Exhibits signs of exhaustion
- Lambing
- Exhibits signs of dehydration
- Weakness/unstable
- Acute mastitis
- Ketosis
- Listeriosis (Listeria)
- Exhibits signs of fever: > 103.3°F (39.6°C)
- Animals that have given birth in the preceding 48 hours

Euthanize

- Non-ambulatory (see box below)
- Lameness (Classes 3, 4, 5) or Crippled
- All fractures examples include:
 - jaw, spine, pelvis, limb
- Significant injury (e.g. predation)
- In shock or dying
- Arthritis in multiple joints
- Gangrenous Mastitis
- Extremely thin/Emaciation
- Pneumonia (*unresponsive e.g. fever, cyanosis, weakness, difficulty breathing*)
- Prolapsed uterus (*unless prompt treatment given*)
- Exhibits signs of a generalized nervous system disorder (must be reported to CFIA)
- Water belly (*urinary calculi*)
- Hernia (*see reverse)

Any condition where an animal can not be transported without suffering.

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 must not be loaded if at risk of going down in transit.
- Animals that can't bear weight on all four legs are in pain and are at risk of going down during transit. These animals are often euthanized at sales and plants.
- Do not transport any sheep where transport may cause suffering when being moved or transported such as significant foot rot, or excessively long feet or showing signs of pain such as arched back, very slow moving, unwilling to stand for more than short periods, or standing on its front carpus (knees)

Heavily Lactating Animals: Animals in heavy lactation requiring milking every 12 hours, or they will become unfit for transport.

Transport with Special Provisions Direct to Local Slaughter²

Seek advice from your veterinarian and advise inspector at the destination plant.

- Abscess
- Blind
- Frost bite
- Lameness (Classes 1, 2)
- Left/right displaced abomasum (*without weakness, toxicity*)
- Unhealed or injured penis
- Pneumonia (*without fever, weakness or dehydration*)
- Bloat (*no signs of discomfort or weakness*)
- Hardware with localized signs
- Intestinal accidents
- Recent minor injury
- Urethral blockage (*acute*)
- Smoke inhalation
- Recent minor prolapsed vagina or rectum without necrosis or infection

Animals with multiple conditions may not be fit to transport.

Special Provisions

The following four special provisions must be met when transporting a compromised animal:

- A compromised animal must be transported locally and directly to the nearest suitable place, other than an assembly centre, where it can receive care and attention, or be humanely slaughtered or euthanized;
- The animal is individually loaded and unloaded without having to negotiate any ramps inside the conveyance;
- The animal is isolated, or it may be penned with one familiar companion animal;
- Measures are taken that are necessary to prevent the animal's suffering, injury or death during loading, confinement, transport and unloading.

Note: To prevent suffering, other special provisions, such as additional bedding, may be required, depending on the condition of the compromised animal. Always ask a veterinarian if you are unsure about the appropriate special provisions, when moving a compromised animal.

¹ 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 unfit for transport (65).

² 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 for transport (65).

Guidelines for Transporting Sheep

References, but does not exactly replicate Federal Transportation Regulations (2020) Health of Animals Regulations (65)

DO

- Isolate incompatible animals (animals that are likely to suffer, sustain an injury or die if they are confined and transported together).
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage material to absorb and prevent the pooling or escape of water, urine and liquid manure.
- Ensure that the animal is able to stand at all times with all feet on the floor, head elevated with sufficient space to permit a full range of head movement, and without any part of its body coming into contact with a deck, roof or top of the conveyance.
- 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 eight hours and longer if eight hours is not enough, for all animals to receive food and water.
- 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 suffering may result.
- Transport when the animal is in its last 10% of her gestation period, unless under the recommendation of a veterinarian for veterinary 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 electric prods or goads on sheep
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers unless they are suited for safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

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.

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

* Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4, or 5 may only be transported for veterinary treatment with special provisions³, including the recommendation of a veterinarian.

Hernias:

Do not transport an animal that has a hernia that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- impedes movement (includes when a hind leg touches the hernia when the animal is walking)
- causes the animal to exhibit signs of pain or suffering
- touches the ground when the animal is standing in its natural position, and/or
- has an open wound, ulceration, or obvious infection.

** this document adapted from Should this Animal be Loaded? Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep and Goats version 05.10

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 (65):
• 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.