




Better Training for Safer Food Initiative

Training course on "Animal Welfare during transport"

Assessment of critical control points during journey, loading and unloading
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Loading



- Adequate loading facilities
- Adequate transportation for the animals
- Animals unfit to be transported
- Fasting times
- Handling
- Use of materials to move the animals
- Mixing animals
- Densities
- Position





Adequate loading/transport

- Slopes (Adult cattle, sheep and goats: 20–25°; pigs and young cattle 8–10°)
- Presence of sharp edges/ absence of lateral protections
- Corridor widths
- Flooring, covering/ bedding in the truck
- Presence of gaps, discontinuities on the floor
- Use of the adequate light
- General cleanliness of the truck
- Functioning and cleanliness of drinkers
- Height of the desks (cages) or drinkers are adequate
- Ventilation systems ready for working

Animals unfit to be transported

- Pregnant animals in the last 10% to the gestation period
- Animals that have given birth during the preceding 48 hours
- Newborn animals in which the navel has not completely healed

Downers: alert cows which are unable to rise to a standing position but will eat and drink

Animals that experience severe pain when moving, e.g. animals with broken extremities or a broken pelvis

Animals with large, deep wounds or severe haemorrhages

Animals with severe system disorders

Animals that are only able to stand after being forced (e.g. very weak, fatigued or emaciated animals)



Animals, that are lame and can put little or no weight on one of their legs



Animals with a uterine prolapse or substantial rectal prolapse

Animals that have just been dehorned or with torn off horns


Animals with visible cardiovascular or respiratory disorder or severe inflammation, e.g. pigs with red skin areas, forced inhalation, respiratory distress, gasping for air

Blind animals





Fasting times



The case of the pig



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If it is too short:

- Stress, sick motionless, mortality
- Environment: feeding losses, truck pollution
- Meat quality problems
- PSE



4–8 h before loading

- Farmers
- Slaughterhouses
- Environment
- Animal Welfare

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If in total is too long:

- More aggressive animals
- Losses in carcass weight (around 24h)
- Meat quality problems
- DFD

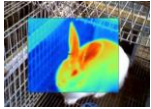



Handling



- Catch the animals in darkness or with a blue light (turkeys)
- Catch them by both legs and calmly
- No too much animals at the same time (2–4) depending of the cage size
- Try to avoid wing flapping
- A gap must exist between the rack and the cage to avoid lesions
- It is exhausting. Therefore, fit to 1500 broilers per person/hour in shifts of 5h



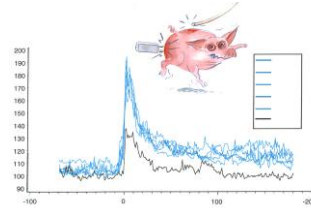



The rabbit should be handled by grasping the skin at the back of the neck and supporting the weight of the body with the other hand under the hindquarters or the stomach area. Never use the ears.

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Material for moving animals

Use of electric prod?



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Mixing animals/densities/position

Mixing can produce fights or not during the transport (depending of the transport conditions) and the species

Very low densities can be problematic in mammals

Some animals need to be transported alone

In horses, it is better rear facing (opposite to the direction of travel → animals maintain balance better, show less muscle fatigue, lower heart rates and lower-stress postural stance



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Transport

Water and food supply

Duration of the transport

Temperature and ventilation conditions (specially during stops)

Conditions in the control post if needed

General condition of the animals



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Unloading

Thermoregulation (shivering/panting)

Fear (freezing, turning back...)

Slipping and falling

Dirtiness

Lesions (such as lameness, broken legs or wings...)

Sick animals

Mortality

Management of animals with problems

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Thermoregulation

For high temperatures especially important in pigs and broilers

At the slaughterhouse, use of showers in pigs and ventilation in poultry



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Fear

For instance, animals reluctant to move, showing a turning back movement or retreat attempts

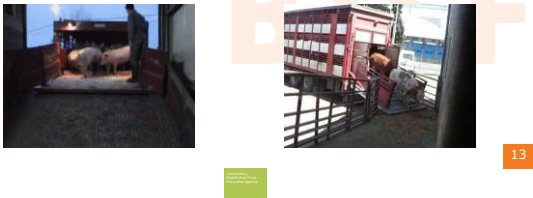
Tonic immobility in poultry

Vocalisations in pigs, horses, cattle...



Slipping and falling

It can be due to the unloading ramp of the truck, the unloading ramp of the animal receiver or due to a bad management



Dirtiness

Important to improve a safer food

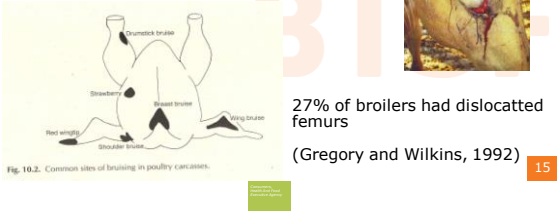


Lesions

Animals with moderate or severe lameness

Broken legs, horns, etc...

Other injuries...



Sick animals/mortality

Animals unable to walk by themselves

Animals with respiratory problems

Exhausted animals

Death animals

Others



Management of animals with problems





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THANKS!!!

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