



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe

FVE Views on Animal Transport





THE FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE

The FVE Network

Members Observers



46 national associations (1 observer)

39 European countries

- 4 Sections
- UEVP (*Practitioners*)
 - UEVH (*Hygienists – Public Health Officers*)
 - EASVO (*Veterinary State Officers*)
 - EVERI (*Education, Research, Industry*)

FVE's mission

The European veterinary profession, embodied by FVE, **enhances animal health, animal welfare, public health and protect the environment** by promoting the veterinary profession.

Together with its members, FVE supports veterinarians in delivering their professional responsibilities to the best possible standards and ensures that veterinary expertise is recognised and valued by society.



Introduction

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) has worked to improve the welfare of animals around transport for decades.



Guidelines for fitness for transport (2015-2018)

Praktyczne wytyczne na potrzeby oceny zdolności dorosłego bydła do transportu



Guide pratique pour évaluer l'aptitude au transport des porcs



Linee guida pratiche per valutare l'idoneità al trasporto degli equidi (cavalli, pony, asini e i loro ibridi)





Animal transport guides: 5 guides and 17 factsheets

https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-animal-welfare-legislation/animal-welfare-during-transport/animal-transport-guides_en



Maximum: journey time and temperature

Max. journey time
Adult: 14 hours + 1 rest + 14 hours Unweaned calves: 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours
Adult: 24 hours Piglets: 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours
No maximum journey duration
Adults: 24 hours Foals (< 6 months, with mare): 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours
Adults: 14 hours + 1 rest + 14 hours Unweaned lambs: 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours

For maximum journey times, animals must be fed and watered and be rested for at least 24 hours; poultry

Control temperature inside and adjust ventilation! Make sure the animals are well fed and watered In case of vent flaps / side covers, open them All livestock (or journeys) not more than 30 degrees

Avoid loading wet animals Control temperature inside and adjust ventilation! Make sure the animals are well fed and watered In case of vent flaps / side covers, use them without impeding air circulation All livestock (or journeys) not less than 5 degrees

Livestock Weather Safety Index

Dry Bulb Temp (°C)	Relative humidity (%)					
	50	60	70	80	90	100
25,6	22,2	23,3	23,9	23,9	25	25,6
26,7	23,3	23,9	25	25,6	26,1	26,7
27,8	23,9	24,4	25,6	26,1	27,2	27,8
28,9	25	25,6	26,7	27,2	28,3	28,9
30	25,6	26,7	27,2	28,3	28,9	30
31,1	26,7	27,2	27,8	29,4	30,6	31,1
32,2	27,2	28,3	28,3	30,6	31,1	32,2
33,3	28,3	28,9	30	31,1	32,2	
34,4	28,9	30	31,1	32,2		
35,6	30	31,1	32,2			
36,7	30,6	31,7				
37,8	31,1	32,8				

Good! Alert Danger Emergency

Do not transport over 30 °C or less in case of high humidity

Vehicle checklist

Name:	Vehicle number:
	Trailer number:

	Before loading	First stop	Second stop	Final check
Animals				
Food and bedding for the				
Temperature and ventilation				
Vehicle check				
Date of check				
Signature				

Driver Checklist: Are You Prepared?



A European approach to good and better practices of transporting live animals

As a professional driver, the animals are in your hands. You need a certificate of competence to carry live animals. Compliance with the relevant welfare and transport legislation will help you achieve consistent high standards of quality and welfare.

1. Preparation



1. Is your vehicle ready? Check roadworthiness, ventilation, cleanliness, partitions, locks, flooring surface (bedding), lighting, (un)loading equipment and vehicle markings



2. Do you have the necessary documents?
 • Certificate of competence
 • Vehicle approval
 • Contingency plan
 • Animal identification documents
Keep in mind the maximum journey time



3. Do you have feed, drink and a watering system for the animals? *See table*



4. For cross-border transport of livestock (other than poultry), do you have the journey log? Do you have a tracking and tracing and temperature monitoring system?

2. (Un)Loading



1. Park your vehicle close to the (un)loading area shielding it, where possible, from extreme weather conditions



2. Biosecurity on location: keep in mind the 'clean' and 'dirty' routes and check (un) loading area for cleanliness



3. Disinfect and check correct positioning and preparation of the (un) loading equipment to avoid injuries



4. At loading - check animal compartments, space allowance and ventilation. *See dedicated factsheets*



5. Handle the animals in a calm way, do not rush. Ensure immediate and adequate treatment for injured animals

**Inspect the animals and only load animals that are 'fit to travel'.
 If in doubt, leave the animal(s) out or check with your company base.**



6. Long journeys: return journey log to competent authorities and report any problems



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3. During the journey



1. Ensure that all doors of the loading compartment are closed, while the vehicle is in motion



2. Drive defensively to avoid injury of the animals or suffering



3. Avoid congestion, traffic incidents and delays during the transport



4. Do a general check of the vehicle and the animals after every (control post) stop



5. Respect the relevant animal handling conditions. *See dedicated factsheets*



6. Maintain adequate temperature and ventilation. *See 'Livestock Weather Safety Index'*



7. Ensure sufficient and proper feeding and drinking at every stop. *See table*



Check all the animals during stops. Separate and treat (if necessary and possible) any sick and /or injured animal or seek veterinary assistance. Always stay in contact with the company base; together you can make the best decisions how to handle

Species	Feeding	Watering
Cattle	<u>Adult*</u> : every 14 hours <u>Calves</u> : see special factsheet	<u>Adult*</u> : every 14 hours <u>Calves</u> : See special factsheet
Pigs	<i>At control post</i>	<u>All pigs</u> : continuous access to water
Poultry	<u>Adult</u> : every 12 hours <u>Day old chicks</u> : provide food, if journey > 24 hours	<u>Adult</u> : every 12 hours <u>Day old chicks</u> : provide water, if journey > 24 hours
Horses	<u>Adult*</u> : every 4,5 – 5 hours <u>Unweaned foals</u> : after 9 hours of travel	<u>Adult*</u> : every 4,5 – 5 hours <u>Unweaned foals</u> : after 9 hours of travel
Sheep	<u>Adult*</u> : every 14 hours <u>Unweaned lambs</u> : after 9 hours of travel	<u>Adult*</u> : every 14 hours <u>Unweaned lambs</u> : after 9 hours of travel

* Includes weaned animals



Key FVE Principles:

- Animals should be **transported as little as possible**. Rearing and slaughtering should occur near the point of origin.
- Long-term goal: Replace as much as possible live animal transport with carcasses, animal products, or genetic material.
- No exports to countries with lower welfare standards or banned systems.





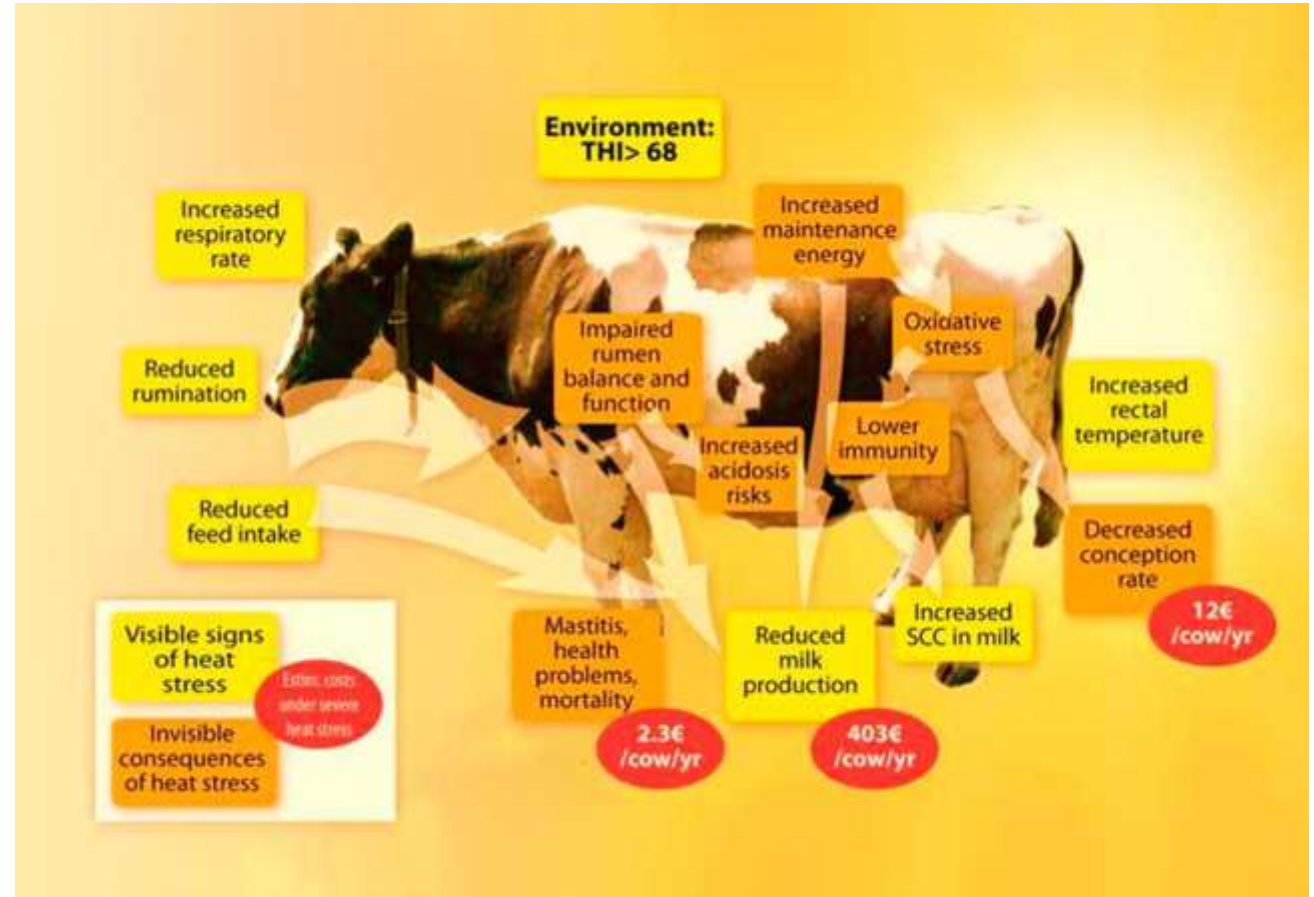
Animal transport is a ‘One Health’ issue: animal health, welfare, public and environmental health are interlinked!

- **Stress** leads to animals to increased susceptibility
- **Mixing**: diseases transfer & spread
- **AMR**: Impact on antibiotic use and resistance
- **Environmental impact** – CO₂, but also e.g. contaminate bedding, etc



Critical points

- Transport during hot periods
- Transport of vulnerable animals
- Long-distance transports
- Unclear responsibilities
- Transport at sea
- Contingency planning
- Sub-optimal trucks
- ...





New EC Proposal for a Regulation

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) welcomes the current EC proposal to update animal transport regulations to align them with modern realities, scientific advice, and societal demands.





Workforce distribution problems

- 330 000 vets in Europe
- 72% work primarily with dogs and cats (& rapidly increasing)
- ~14% Public Service/government (3-34%)
- Mostly distribution problem
- Need to ensure we keep enough veterinarians in public service, VPH and working with farm animals





Enforcement and Capacity Building

- Enhance capacity, resources and responsibilities of veterinary services, especially at border and control posts.
- Need **veterinary presence** at loading/unloading based on a 'risk-based' approach.





Conclusion

- FVE welcomes the EC proposal
- To align with latest **scientific evidence**, especially regarding journey times, temperature and space allowances
- Need to strengthen capacity and resources of **veterinary services to** improve implementation, training and enforcement.
- Better **define responsibilities**
- Stricter rules for **long-distance export** to third countries to avoid animal suffering



All positions on the FVE website

Mon, 12 Aug 2024

POSITION PAPERS | Animal Health & Welfare / Public Health & Food Safety

FVE's Positions on Animal Transport: Overview and Recent Developments

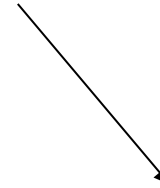
Over the past years, FVE has been actively engaged in shaping and improving the regulations surrounding the transport of animals. Below, you can find a summary of key actions and positions FVE has taken to ensure that animal welfare remains a priority across Europe.

Recent Legislative Developments (2024)

In response to the **legislative proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the protection of animals during transport and related operations**, FVE has provided detailed comments. This proposal aims to modernize regulations that have been in place for nearly two decades, with a strong focus on aligning with scientific expertise and societal expectations.

Key Highlights from FVE's Comments:

- ▶ **Journey Times and Space Allowances:** FVE supports limiting journey times and increasing space allowances for animals during transport, based on scientific recommendations.
- ▶ **Export to Third Countries:** Stricter rules are welcomed, and the long-term goal should be to replace live animal transport with the movement of carcasses or genetic material.



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