

# SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED? Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep & Goats



**Load Healthy  
Animals**

**Do Not Load  
Do Not Transport**



**Transport With  
Special Provisions**  
(See reverse for transport regulations.)



## Delay Transportation and Reassess

- Exhaustion
- Calving/lambing/kidding
- Weakness
- Fever:
  - cattle > 102.5°F  
39.1°C
  - sheep/goats > 103.3°F  
39.6°C

## Euthanize

- **Non-ambulatory (see box below)**
- Fractures of limb or spine
- Arthritis with multiple joints
- Cancer eye (severe)
- Cancer/leukosis (extensive)
- Extremely thin
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever)
- Prolapsed uterus
- Water belly
- Nervous disorders, such as rabies must be reported to CFIA
- Hernia that impedes movement, is painful, touches the ground

## Transport Direct to Processor as soon as possible

- Abscess
- Blind
- Frost bite
- Cancer eye (eye intact)
- Lameness Class 1 & 2 (see reverse)
- Left/right displaced abomasum (without weakness, toxicity)
- Lumpy jaw
- Penis injuries
- Pneumonia (without fever)
- Prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Animals that have given birth within 48 hours

## Transport Direct to Emergency Processing Facility

**Advise inspector at the destination plant.**

- Bloat\*
- Hardware with localized signs
- Intestinal accidents
- Recent injury\*
- Urethral blockage (acute)\*
- Broken tail or jaw

*\*Animals must travel in a small compartment, either individually segregated or with one quiet animal.*

## Non-ambulatory Animals

- Unable to stand without assistance, or unable to move without being dragged or carried. Commonly called "downers."
- Animals should be able to bear weight on all four limbs to be suitable for transport.
- Lameness Class 4 & 5 **should not be loaded** or transported, except for veterinary treatment. Lameness Class 3 not recommended for transport.
- Animals should not be loaded if at risk of going down en route.

## Emergency On-Farm Slaughter

If an animal is fit for human consumption but not fit for transport (i.e. injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter is an option. Emergency on-farm slaughter must be authorized by OMAFRA. The animal must meet specific food safety/animal health criteria and pass OMAFRA inspection prior to slaughter. To arrange emergency on-farm slaughter call 1-888-466-2372 ext. 64230 or 64360. Visit: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/es-process.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/es-process.htm)

# Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Cattle, Sheep & Goats

## Federal Transportation Regulations

### DO

- Segregate animals of different species, or substantially different weights and ages, or if incompatible by nature.
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage and absorption of urine.
- Have sufficient headroom for animals to stand in a natural position.
- Either strew the vehicle with sand or have the vehicle fitted with safe footholds, in addition to appropriate bedding.
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at least five hours and longer, if necessary, for all animals to receive food and water.
- Ensure that calves too young to exist on hay and grain are provided with suitable food and water at intervals of no more than 18 hours.
- Ensure that animals segregated in trucks receive extra protection from cold and wind chill; supply ample bedding.
- Euthanize animals promptly as the conditions outlined on the reverse occur.

### DO NOT

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering may result, or when the animal is liable to give birth during the journey.
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- Mishandle an animal on loading or unloading.
- Use goads or prods on the face, anal, udder or genital area.
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers not designed for safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

Source: *Transporting Livestock by Truck (CFIA)*

## 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.*

### Not Recommended for Transport\*

#### Class 3

Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

### Do Not Load or Transport\*

#### Class 4

Requires assistance to rise; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

#### Class 5

Unable to rise or remain standing.

**\* Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4 or 5 may be transported for veterinary treatment.**

### Further Information

CFIA (Transportation Emergencies) 1-877-814-2342

Ontario SPCA: 1-888-668-7722

Ontario Farm Animal Council (Animal Care Helpline) (519) 837-1326

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
1-877-424-1300 [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

**Please contact your veterinarian for advice or help with specific cases.**



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**To order more copies, please contact Ontario Farm Animal Council: (519) 837-1326 [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org)**

Endorsed by:  
**Ontario Association of  
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