



**Please note: This document will be a base for developing shorter and user-friendly documents targeted at relevant audiences.**

# **GUIDELINES ON COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF CATS AND DOGS BY LAND**



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## Background

**Regulation (EC) 1/2005** on the protection of animals during transport, hereafter referred to as ‘the Regulation’, came into effect on the 1st of January 2007 and aims to provide a level playing field for operators, while ensuring sufficient protection for the animals being transported. The content and impact of the Regulation has been the subject of a Scientific Opinions from the European Food Safety Authority, however, there are almost no specific provisions for the transport of cats and dogs. Due to this, the EU Platform on Animal Welfare voluntary initiative subgroup to safeguard the health and welfare of pets (dogs) in trade, referred to below as ‘Subgroup’, has produced clear guidelines and considers it important to extend this approach to address all aspects of the health and welfare of cats and dogs during commercial movement, both via delegated acts of the Animal Health Law, developing EFSA opinions as mentioned in regulation (EC) 1/2005, as well as animal health requirements mentioned in Directive 92/65/EEC and the non-commercial movement of pet animals as mentioned in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.

## Acknowledgements

*Animal and Plant Health Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland*  
*Animal Health and Welfare Department, National Food Chain Safety Office of Hungary*  
*Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland*  
*Animal Welfare Department, Environment Brussels, Belgium*  
*Animal Welfare Inspector, Transport, Flanders, Belgium*  
*Animal Welfare Office, Ministry for Agriculture and Food of France*  
*Animal Welfare Unit, Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture, Germany*  
*Animal Welfare Unit, General Direction of Food and Veterinary, Ministry of Agriculture, Portugal*  
*Animal Welfare Unit, Government of Flanders, Belgium*  
*Animal Welfare Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain*  
*Animal Welfare Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands*  
*Animal Welfare Unit, Public Service of Wallonia, Belgium*  
*Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy*  
*Eurogroup for Animals*  
*Ministry of Health-Izsm, Italy*  
*Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)*  
*State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic*  
*The Animal Health and Animal Welfare and Veterinary Medicine Units, The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, Denmark*  
*The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe*  
*VIER PFOTEN / FOUR PAWS - European Policy Office*  
*Golden Paws Pet Transport*  
*National Contact Points on Transport*  
*Biocrime Project*  
*Harry Eckman*  
*Iwona Mertin*



## Legal basis

Regulations and Directives pertaining to the transportation of dogs and cats <sup>1</sup>.

- Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra- Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market
- Council Directive 92/65/EEC of 13 July 1992 laying down animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A (I) to Directive 90/425/EEC
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 599/2004 of 30 March 2004 concerning the adoption of a harmonised model certificate and inspection report linked to intra-Community trade in animals and products of animal origin
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97
- Directive 2013/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 amending Council Directive 92/65/EEC as regards the animal health requirements governing intra-Union trade in and imports into the Union of dogs, cats and ferrets
- Decision 2013/518/EU: Commission Implementing Decision of 21 October 2013 amending Part 1 of Annex E to Council Directive 92/65/EEC as regards the model health certificate for animals from holdings
- Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 Text with EEA relevance
- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law)
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components (the IMSOC Regulation)

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<sup>1</sup> With the exception of Regulation I/2005, all these texts have vocation to be integrated in the Animal Health Law regulation. Moreover, the AHL will, through implementing and delegated act, implement more detailed requirements for movement of dogs and cats from shelters and assembly centres.

## Summary of core legislation



## Scope of guidelines

The focus of these guidelines is to enable the protection of the health and welfare of cats and dogs in commercial movement. This species-specific operational guide applies to anyone transporting or supervising the transport of cats and dogs. In relation to transport by air, while the guidelines do in general apply, further information should be sought from the IATA website (IATA Live Animals Regulations) and from the relevant air carrier.

## Definitions

**Commercial movement:** transport for commercial purposes is not limited to transport with immediate exchange of money for goods or services. Commercial movement that relates to economic activity and covers any transport that, either directly or indirectly, involves or aims to achieve a financial gain.

Regulation 576/2013 – defines ‘non-commercial movement’ as any movement which does not have as its aim either the sale of, or the transfer of ownership of a pet animal. Therefore, commercial movement should also be defined in terms of the transfer of ownership as well as financial gain.



Regulation 576/2013 also states that, in the interest of consistency of Union law, pending the establishment of Union rules governing the non-commercial movement into a Member State from another Member State or from a territory or a third country, it should be possible for national rules to apply to non-commercial movement provided that they are not stricter than those applied to movement for commercial purposes.

<b>Example case 1</b>	If a consumer uses a transport company to transport a dog or a cat from point A to B in return for financial gain it is a commercial movement and Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 applies as well as national pieces of legislation where applicable.
<b>Example case 2</b>	If they are transported for breeding regardless of the length of the journey and the number of animals transported
<b>Example case 3</b>	If the number of animals being transported that are owned by one individual exceeds five, then it is considered commercial movement unless all the following conditions are fulfilled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· the movement of pet animals is for the purpose of participating in competitions<sup>2</sup>, exhibitions, or sporting events (or in training for such events); and</li> <li>· the owner or the authorised person submits written evidence; and</li> <li>· the animals are more than six months old.</li> </ul>
<b>Example case 4</b>	If an animal protection association transports dogs between Member States with a view to placing them with third parties for a fee, regardless of whether that activity is for profit or not <sup>3</sup> .

**Animals:** in the case of these guidelines “animals” refers to cats and dogs.

**Attendant:** a person directly in charge of the welfare of the animals who accompanies them during a journey. This must be a person with a knowledge and understanding of the behaviour and welfare needs of animals, who can provide effective management, and can promote, ensure and protect the welfare of the animals in their care. The attendant should have appropriate training and experience, a professional and positive response in providing for an animal’s needs and their competence in this role should be gained through formal training and practical experience in the care and transport of animals.

**Competent authority:** the authority of a Member State competent to carry out checks on animal health and welfare or any authority to which it has delegated that competence.

<sup>2</sup> Should the regulation change it is recommended that this should apply in all cases where animals are being transported for competitions, regardless of the number of animals

<sup>3</sup> CJEU case number C-301/14



**Container:** any crate, carrier, box, cage, receptacle or other rigid structure used for the transport of animals which is not a means of transport in-of-itself (this may include a built-in container within the transport vehicle).

**Consigner:** the person sending the animals.

**Consignee:** the person receiving the animals at the destination.

**Cat:** (*Felis catus*), commonly referred to as a house cat. It is a domesticated member of the family Felidae (order Carnivora).

**Dog:** (*Canis lupus familiaris*), a domestic member of the family Canidae (order Carnivora).

**Driver:** the person driving the transport vehicle. This may be the attendant or it may be a separate individual. They must have the necessary licensing and qualifications for the vehicle being driven.

**Journey:** the entire transport operation from the place of departure to the place of destination, including any unloading, accommodation and loading occurring at intermediate points in the journey.<sup>4</sup>

**Keeper:** any natural or legal person, except a transporter, in charge of or handling animals whether on a permanent or temporary basis.<sup>5</sup>

**Long journey:** a journey that exceeds 8 hours, starting from when the first animal of the consignment is loaded.<sup>6</sup>

**Means of transport:** car, truck, van, any other means of transport by road<sup>7</sup>.

**Official veterinarian:** the veterinarian appointed by the competent authority of the Member State.

**Organiser:**

(i) a transporter who has subcontracted to at least one other transporter for a part of a journey; or

(ii) a natural or legal person who has contracted to more than one transporter for a journey.<sup>8</sup>

**Place of departure:** the place at which the first animal is first loaded onto a means of transport.

**Place of destination:** the place where the last animal is unloaded.

**TRACES system:** Trade Control and Expert System - tool for the administration of animal transports and animal products within the EU and from third countries.

**Transport:** the movement of animals affected by one or more means of transport and the related operations, including loading, unloading, transfer and rest, until the unloading of the animals at the

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<sup>4</sup> According to Reg 1/2005

<sup>5</sup> According to Reg 1/2005

<sup>6</sup> According to Reg 1/2005

<sup>7</sup> These guidelines are for road transport only. It is possible that a road vehicle may itself, as part of its journey, be transported by train or ferry, this does not, however, alter these guidelines as animals being transported will still remain inside the road vehicle.

<sup>8</sup> According to Reg 1/2005



place of destination is completed<sup>9</sup>. For the purposes of these guidelines, the word “transport” refers specifically to road transport but may also be applicable to other forms of transport.

**Transporter:** any natural or legal person transporting animals on his own account, or for the account of a third party.

## Section 1: General conditions for the transport of animals

Correct documents and good preparation for travelling gives the animal and the organiser the greatest chance for a safe, comfortable and problem-free journey. Preparation is essential, such as vaccinations to prevent serious diseases and correct methods of identification improves traceability as well as helping if the animal gets lost<sup>10</sup>. No animal should be transported without being identified by transponder<sup>11</sup> and having received the appropriate or required vaccinations<sup>12</sup> and health checks by a vet. Veterinary advice should be sought before travel to ensure that the animals’ health and welfare is protected during the journey as well as checking country specific regulations.

On the basis of this information, the means of transport and the animals are checked for consistency with the documents and compliance with the provisions, particularly those set out in the Regulation. The means of transport must also be inspected in relation to any animal welfare emergencies, especially those requiring immediate treatment. The inspecting authority representative should verify if, according to the Regulation:

- it is a transport in connection with a commercial activity (subject to animal transport legislation)
- if the transport duration is less than or exceeds 8 hours
- if it is a transport within the country's borders, a transport from or into other Community countries (subject to animal health legislation), or a third country

Before the animals’ dispatch, the owner is requested to provide required documents depending on the type of transport. It is recommended that the transporter, on the day of transport, has all the documents printed in folders, checks the microchip with a reader and verifies the content of the passport if applicable.

- The documents required for transport must clearly state:
  - what type of transport is being carried out
  - what animal species are being transported
  - how many animals there are
  - identification for each individual animal along with their veterinary certification
  - how long the journey will last or has already lasted

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<sup>9</sup> According to Reg 1/2005

<sup>10</sup> In some countries this is a legal requirement

<sup>11</sup> ISO 11784 and ISO 11785 standards

<sup>12</sup> Specifically, rabies



If there is a suspicion that animals are being transported from a third country, further requirements should be considered. In case of any doubts in relation to the necessary documents and/or to the animals' fitness for transport, the transport vehicle is to be taken to an appropriate unloading location (police station, animal shelter, etc.).

## 1.1 Fitness for transport

### General requirements

No animal must be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey and all animals must be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering. Pets that are injured, diseased or unduly distressed must not be transported, except to a veterinary surgery in the case of an emergency situation. It is the responsibility of the transporter to ensure that these requirements are respected at all times. In addition, the transporter must ensure that all necessary arrangements are made in advance to minimize the length of the journey and meet all of the animals' needs during the journey.

Due to the potential for significant stress, cats and dogs are not to be transported unless absolutely necessary, for the shortest practicable time<sup>1314</sup>.

#### **The following animals must not be transported (unless to go to a vet):**

- sick, injured or weak animals e.g. bruising, lameness, swelling.
- animals unable to move independently without pain and discomfort or to walk unassisted: animals must be able to move normally, without pain and should not need to be forced to move.
- animals that are injured with open wounds or external prolapse, e.g. animals with fractures, wounds.
- animals in recovery immediately following a planned surgery e.g. neutering or spaying.
- animals that present physiological weakness e.g. weak as a result of a disease process, injury, starvation, fatigue.
- animals that present clinical signs of an underlying pathological process e.g. significant weight loss, diarrhoea, respiratory problems, nervous signs, loss of appetite.
- body condition score of either 1 or 5 (for details see Appendix 2).
- dogs displaying signs of aggressive behaviour (any animal to be transported must be unmuzzled).

#### Females in pre- and postnatal phase

- pregnant female cat (queen) or dog (bitch) during the last two weeks before the estimated birth or one week after birth unless to a veterinary surgeon for treatment.
- if in doubt the animals should be examined by a veterinarian for evidence of milk in the mammary glands, relaxation of the pelvic ligaments, vaginal discharges or nesting behaviour which may indicate that birth is imminent.

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<sup>13</sup> Mariti, C., Ricci, E., Mengoli, M., Zilocchi, M., Sighieri, C., & Gazzano, A. (2012). Survey of travel-related problems in dogs. *The Veterinary Record*, 170 (21), 542.

<sup>14</sup> RSPCA - The effect of transport on dog welfare - evidence for the revision of EU regulation 1/2005



### Young animals

- For in-country transport, puppies or kittens<sup>1516171819</sup> must be over eight weeks of age. For cross-border transport, puppies and kittens must be over 15 weeks of age. Puppies and kittens under these ages must not be transported, unless with their mother, for emergency situations, or if a veterinary surgeon deems it necessary for health and/or welfare reasons.

Sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis. However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned. In cases of doubt, veterinary advice should always be sought.

Sedation of dogs and cats prior to transport should rarely be necessary and depending on the agent used can result in adverse effects including their ability to thermoregulate and a heightened response to external stimuli. If there is an exceptional case for sedation on welfare or veterinary grounds, drugs must only be administered under the direction of a veterinarian who is fully appraised of the journey plan. It is also essential that all those concerned with transporting and caring for the animals en route know that they have been sedated and are aware of any special care procedures and contingency plans if the journey is delayed and the sedation begins to wear off. For details on separation of animals, please see section 1.3 of these guidelines.

## 1.2 Means of transport and containers

Animals must be in appropriate containers when being transported. These containers must meet certain minimum requirements.

The animal cargo space of the vehicle used to transport dogs or cats must protect the animals' health, welfare and comfort at all times. This includes:

- Protection from exhaust fumes;
- A sufficient air supply in the cargo space for normal breathing;
- Positioning of the container within the cargo space to ensure each animal has sufficient air for normal breathing;
- Positioning the container so that it is protected from the elements;
- Positioning of the container to ensure the animal can be removed in an emergency;
- Positioning of the container so that animals do not face each other<sup>20</sup>;
- Keeping the interior of the cargo space clean and clear of unnecessary items.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.alleycat.org/resources/kitten-progression/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://uk.pedigree.com/puppy/key-milestones>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.wikihow.com/Tell-Your-Puppy%27s-Age>

<sup>18</sup> Potential for abrupt/early separation of puppies from their mothers and littermates before 7-8 weeks of age which interrupts the natural process of weaning and may inflict acute and/or chronic stress,(Serpell, J., Duffy, D.L., Jagoe, A., 2016

<sup>19</sup> RSPCA. 2017. Vaccinations. Protecting your pet from infectious diseases.

<sup>20</sup> Ideally, all containers in the vehicle should face one side



Animals must not be transported alongside harmful materials or substances. Where certain materials are required for example, for cleaning, animals must be protected and separated from these during transport. Such materials may include:

- Cleaning solutions
- Caustic substances
- Strongly scented materials or items
- Animal remains or excreta

The general requirements for vehicles and containers used to transport all species require that they are designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to:

- Avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the animals
- Have no sharp edges or projections from inside that could injure an animal
- Be constructed of non-toxic material
- Prevent animals from escaping (e.g. the door must be constructed so that accidental opening is prevented), however open easily and quickly in order to remove the animal from the enclosure in an emergency.
- Prevent animals from putting their paws/feet/nose through any ventilation hole or door mesh to limit potential risks of injury to the animal, handlers, or other persons or animals nearby.
- Be durable and robust so as to withstand the stresses of movement during transport
- Provide a suitable non slip floor where applicable
- Protect the animals from inclement weather conditions and extremes of temperature and adverse changes in climatic conditions
- Be easily cleaned, disinfected or disposed as appropriate
- Have a leak proof bottom
- Ensure air quality and temperature is appropriate to the species and number of animals being transported e.g. containers should have ventilation apertures at least on 3 sides
- Provide adequate lighting to allow for the care and inspection of the animals during the intended journey
- Provide access to the animals for the purpose of providing feed, water and care as necessary, and for inspection purposes

## Technical requirements for vehicles

All vehicles are to be secure, legally roadworthy and operated within all relevant transport and highway legislation. When animals are carried this includes the current national legal acts or other relevant legislation. Drivers should ensure that the vehicle they are using has all the necessary permission and certification as required by the national law.

All vehicles used for the transportation of animals are to be regularly serviced<sup>21</sup>. It is the legal responsibility of the transporter to ensure that the vehicle is safe before use.

- The following vehicle checks should be made:
  - Daily: engine oil, coolant levels and tyres
  - Weekly: battery, brake and windscreen washer levels

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<sup>21</sup> For long-distance travel it is recommended to service the vehicle 2-3 times a year.



- The vehicle must be identified with (i) a registration number if a rigid self-propelled vehicle, or (ii) in the case of a trailer unit, a unique, permanent, tamperproof, accessible and visible chassis number (depending on a separate traction unit).
- The vehicle (including any moveable containers) must be clearly and visibly marked to indicate the presence of live animals<sup>22</sup>.
- In the case of sea or train journeys, vehicles must have a sufficient number of adequately designed, positioned (adequately spaced) and maintained securing points (lashing points), where applicable, so that they can be securely fastened.

## Ventilation and temperature control

Adequate ventilation and temperature control are required. Vehicles used solely for the purpose of transporting animals are to be fitted with containers of adequate size for the safe transportation of animals and be provided with adequate ventilation so that the animal remains comfortable during the journey regardless of the external temperature or level of humidity. Vehicles should be equipped with devices that allow monitoring of temperature and humidity both inside and outside the vehicle.

Adequate natural and forced (air conditioning) ventilation should be installed in transport vehicles to ensure the quality of the air in the animal compartment of the vehicle is maintained.

The total combined surface area of all ventilation openings of any animal container must make up 14% of the total combined surface area of all walls of the container and have at least one third of the total ventilation area located on the upper half of the container.

Each wall with a ventilation opening must have a projecting external rim to prevent obstruction of openings and must allow a minimum of 2cm air circulation space between the container and any wall or other object.

It must be ensured that:

- There is sufficient air flow and air quality for the number and type of animals being transported.
- Animals must not be restricted to areas where climatic conditions may cause them distress. For cats and dogs, the temperature should ideally be maintained between 15°C and 25°C, and never below 10°C. Insulation and temperature regulation should aim to keep the ambient temperature within these parameters. Best practice would ensure that the temperature remains stable at around 20°C. Particular attention should be paid when transporting brachycephalic dogs or cats as their ability to thermoregulate is significantly reduced and they are therefore far more susceptible to overheating.
- Humidity levels should be within 30 to 70 percent<sup>23</sup> but kept ideally at 50% throughout the journey and monitored with a humidity gauge.
- Ventilation is not impeded where containers are loaded on top of one another.
- All vehicles used for the transport of animals must have air-conditioning and at least one electric roof fan in place that operates from an independent power source even when the

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<sup>22</sup> For vehicles registered in some countries e.g. Sweden it is obligatory to have signs both rear and front.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/VA/VA-16-W.pdf>



engine of the vehicle is switched off, as well as other means by which the level of ventilation can be adjusted (windows, side vents etc).

- In the case of very large vehicles involved in the transport of multiple containers of animals, it may be necessary to install an alarm on the temperature and humidity monitoring systems that alerts the driver that the temperature or humidity has reached the maximum or minimum level allowable, so that they can take the appropriate action to rectify the situation. It is also recommended to have an internal camera system in order to ensure proper surveillance of animals at any time. This is, however, considered best practice and is therefore recommended for all vehicles irrespective of size.

### Additional provisions for transport in containers

If an animal is transported alone in a container, it is to have enough space to stand up fully and hold its head in a natural position. It should be able to sit erect comfortably, turn around and lie down normally, and rest in a natural position.

In the case of dogs being transported with other dogs, there needs to be adequate space for all dogs to carry out all these behaviours without touching other dogs. Cats have a tendency to sit or lie in closer proximity to each other than dogs when sharing a container, but enough space should still be allowed for them to stand, sit, turn and lie comfortably.

In order to ensure the welfare of the animals being transported, containers must meet the general requirements for means of transport listed above in addition to the following:

- Containers in which animals are transported must be clearly marked indicating the presence of live animals and with a sign indicating the top of the container.
- During transport and handling, containers must be kept upright and secure so as to prevent movement or displacement and should not obstruct the driver's view.
- In the case of containers over 50kg, they must have an adequate number of securing points to ensure they are not displaced during transport.
- Containers must be designed to allow the attendant to provide water and food to the animals and inspect them when necessary.
- Where containers are stacked on top of one another, precautions must be taken to ensure urine and faeces do not leak on the animals underneath.
- The cat container must contain a litter box with enough unused litter to absorb and cover excreta. The litter must be of a suitably absorbent material and be safe and nontoxic to animals.
- If the transport takes more than 6 hours, a container with a sanitary box or equivalent for collecting urine and stools is necessary.
- Suitable, non-slip bedding must be supplied as appropriate. Any bedding material used must be non-toxic, absorbent, non-allergenic and padded so as not to cause injury. "Vet beds" are a recommended suitable bedding. In particular, puppies and kittens of transportable age must be provided with adequate quantities of a bedding material appropriate to the species to ensure their thermal comfort and adequately absorb urine and faeces. Materials such as newspaper, shredded paper, sawdust or straw must not be used.
- The containers should be draft and fume-free and well-ventilated.



- Distressing stimulation through noise, sight, smell, touch or movement (as a result of driving style, for example) is to be kept to a minimum <sup>24</sup>.
- Containers should not be placed in such a way where during transport or loading any animals are facing each other.

Cardboard carriers must not be used as they can become damp and insecure. Carriers are not to be opened during transit unless absolutely necessary and in such cases are to be done by authorised persons in an enclosed area so that the animal cannot escape.

If feasible familiar smelling items should ideally be provided to make transportation of the animal more comfortable.

## 1.3 Transport Practices

### Loading, unloading and handling

To facilitate the loading and unloading, the vehicle should have low ground clearance. Animals must already be transferred into appropriately sized transportation containers before being loaded into the vehicle<sup>25</sup>.

Loading and unloading must be conducted so as to avoid injury, distress and suffering and ensure the safety and comfort of the animals, and any equipment used must be adequately designed, constructed and maintained.

Easy access to each animal must be ensured, therefore no obstacles should be present in front of the container entrance and all vehicles must carry a suitable ladder if one is required to access the animals.

Appropriate lighting within the vehicle must be provided to facilitate loading, unloading, inspection and care of the animals during transport. Additionally, a torch should be carried for emergencies.

The use of legally sold species-specific pheromone products in the vehicle can be considered as it may help to alleviate stress associated with transport.<sup>22</sup>

Owners/shelters/breeders should be seek advice on how to habituate dogs or cats to a container using positive reinforcement techniques, to ensure the animals, as much as possible, do not have negative associations with the lead up to, and actual transport<sup>26</sup>.

### Competence of personnel

The personnel loading, handling and transporting the animals must be competent regarding the health and welfare of the species being transported and carry out their tasks without using violence

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<sup>24</sup> This provision applies generally, not only when animals are into containers.

<sup>25</sup> Unless the containers are built in.

<sup>26</sup> <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/WSAVA-Animal-Welfare-Guidelines-2018.pdf>



or any methods likely to cause unnecessary fear<sup>2728</sup>, injury or suffering, also in case of emergency. Animals must be handled in such a way that ensures their welfare is respected at all times and without using any unnecessary force.

Personnel involved with the transport and care of animals must have the necessary licencing qualification/experience. For example, the person driving the vehicle must have the required license and permits to do so. The attendant must have the necessary knowledge, training and/or experience to ensure the welfare of animals in their care. It is recommended that there must always be two personnel present. However, if for any reason there is only one person present, they must have all the necessary licensing, knowledge, experience and training to undertake all task.

All personnel should be familiar with the signs of heatstroke in dogs and cats (section 4.3) and the appropriate actions to take in terms of first aid.

### Appropriate equipment and materials

For the safe transport of dogs and cats, having the correct equipment and materials is essential.

Equipment should be designed a fit for purpose and cleaned, checked and maintained regularly. Any attendant or person having access to the equipment should have knowledge of its correct use and training of how to use it, if appropriate.

There should be enough equipment and materials for the number of animals being transported with spares provided in case of damage or emergency.

Suggested equipment and materials may include animal handling equipment including leashes and muzzles as well as emergency restraining equipment; bowls, food, water, blankets, towels, bedding, litter, cleaning materials and equipment, garbage bags, “poo bags”, toolkits and first aid kits.

### Separation of different species and types

In general animals should be transported in compatible groups and the following animals should be transported separately:

- Animals of different species (it is strongly recommended that transporters do not transport cats and dogs together unless they are used to one another as species).
- Animals of significantly different sizes or ages
- Sexually mature males from females, especially females in heat should be transported separately from mature males
- Animals known or likely to be hostile towards one another<sup>29</sup>
- Unfamiliar dogs are not to be mixed in the same carrier for the purpose of transportation

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<sup>27</sup> Gaultier, E., Bonnafous, L., Vienet-Lagué, D., Falewee, C., Bougrat, L., Lafont-Lecuelle, C., Pageat, P., 2009. Efficacy of dog-appeasing pheromone in reducing behaviours associated with fear of unfamiliar people and new surroundings in newly adopted puppies. *Veterinary Record* 164, 708-714.

<sup>28</sup> McMillan, F.D., 2017. Behavioral and psychological outcomes for dogs sold as puppies through pet stores and/or born in commercial breeding establishments: Current knowledge and putative causes. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and research*. 19, 14-26.

<sup>29</sup> All of the above is possible if the animal containers are facing one side and the animals are not directly exposed to each other.

- Unfamiliar cats are not to be mixed in the same carrier for the purpose of transportation
- If dogs and cats are being transported together, containers must be arranged in a manner where dogs do not walk in front of cats when being loaded or unloaded onto the vehicle (including during rest stops)

In cases where animals have been raised in compatible groups, are comfortable with one another and there is evidence for this<sup>30</sup>, then the categories referred to in the first 3 bullet points above may be transported together but the ultimate decision should depend on the behaviour and situation at the time of the travel.

### Space allowances

It is the responsibility of the transporter/organiser to ensure that adequate floor area and height is provided in the vehicle/container for the animal or animals being transported.

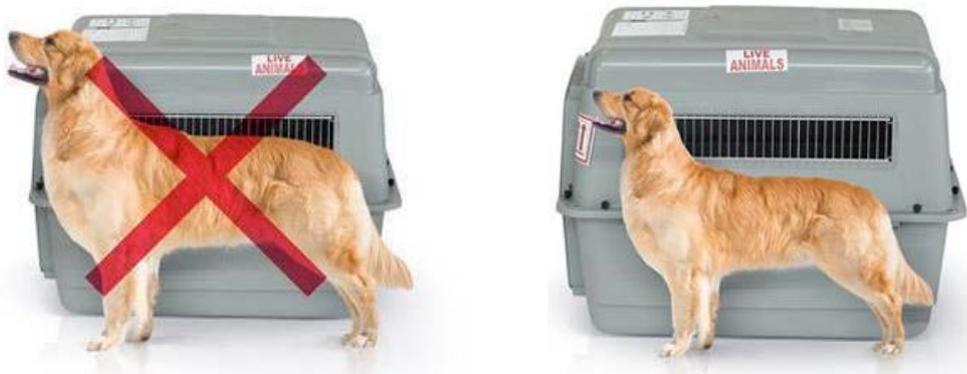
The space allowance per animal must always meet minimum requirements (see below), but more space may be required depending on the following parameters:

- The size and species of animal
- The number of animals in the individual animal compartment
- The greater the length of the intended journey
- The anticipated weather conditions for the duration of the journey e.g. more space should be provided for longer journeys and in hot weather conditions.

The space provided for each animal being transported must be sufficient so as to ensure that:

- The animals can stand up fully and hold their head in the natural position
- They can each comfortably sit, turn, lie down and rest
- They can move around in the vehicle/container so as to access water and feed as appropriate

Calculating the minimum size of containers<sup>313233</sup>:



<sup>30</sup> E.g. the owner gives indication if animals can be paired but the ultimate decision belongs to the transporter and depends on the behaviour and situation at the time of the travel.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.impact-unleashed.com/pet-relocation-travel/how-to-measure-your-pet-from-their-crate/attachment/expatriate-crate-size-6-12-15-2/>

<sup>32</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/19-3BYD-Vrg\\_MZ2fuPngHCPoGrqLXtwMD/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19-3BYD-Vrg_MZ2fuPngHCPoGrqLXtwMD/view)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.jordbruksverket.se/download/18.7c1e1fce169bee5214fad39b/1553851303158/2019-007.pdf>



**Length:** While standing, the dog or cat should be measured from the tip of its nose to the base of the tail. Between 5cm and 12cm should then be added to this (from cats and small dogs to large dogs) to calculate the correct length of container.

**Height:** While standing, the dog or cat should be measured from the tips of the ears (for pointed eared dogs) or the top of the head (for floppy eared dogs) and then 12cm should be added to calculate the correct height of the container.

**Width:** While standing, the dog or cat should be measured at its widest point (usually the shoulders). The width of the container should be calculated at 2.5x the animal's width.

If necessary, a cat might be delivered to the transporter in their own carrier that can then be placed into the built-in container. Such a carrier must fulfil the space requirements as outlined above and the container it is to be placed in must be big enough to accommodate both the animal and its carrier (also allowing for a litter tray, food and water).

## 1.4 Water and feeding intervals, journey times and resting period

All transport must be carried out without delay to the place of destination and the welfare of the animals must be regularly checked and appropriately maintained throughout the journey. For all journeys, the journey starts when the first animal is loaded onto the means of transport and ends when the last animal is unloaded at the destination.

It is recommended for the transporter to provide only dry food that is kept in sealed separate storage containers for cats and dogs. It is also advised that adult animals are not to be fed 6-8h before being picked up by the transporter and dogs should be walked before being loaded.

The species, age, condition and veterinary dietary requirements of the animals as well as the length, weather conditions and purpose of the intended journey will affect feeding and watering regimes. For example, kittens and puppies will likely need to eat more frequently than older cats and dogs. It may, in certain circumstances, be advisable to modify the diet or withdraw food to reduce the possibility of discomfort, vomiting, soiling of bedding/litter during the journey.

As an absolute minimum, the Regulation requires that animals are fed every 24 hours and given water at intervals of not more than 8 hours. However, to ensure the comfort and welfare of animals it is the recommendation of these guidelines that food is to be offered twice daily for both adult dogs and cats, with breaks every 4 hours to provide water. If the animal has any special feeding requirements certified by a veterinarian or due to young age, there must be clear written instructions provided by the owner.

Food and water bowls or receptacles must be:

- Securely attached to the inside of the transport container
- Placed so they can be filled from the outside of the container
- Designed, constructed or installed so that the animal cannot leave the container through the food and water openings
- One feeding and one water bowl provided for each animal. These must be separate receptacles.



Consignors must certify that each animal was offered food 6-8 hours prior to delivery to a transporter and water within the 4 hours preceding delivery of the animal to a transporter (or intermediate handler for transportation), and must log the date and time the food and water were offered and state whether any was eaten or drunk.

The logged information and certified statement should be securely attached to the animal's container with clear instructions for and specific in-transit food, water requirements that fall outside the normal transport recommendations or any medical requirements for the journey's duration.

The Certification statement must contain the following information:

- Consignor's name and address
- Microchip number or tattoo assigned to the animal and a description of the animal
- Time and date the animal was last fed and watered and specific instructions for the next feeding(s) and watering(s) or medical requirements for the journey's duration
- Consignor's signature and the date and time the certification was signed

Animals must be observed on a continuous basis:

- They have sufficient air for normal breathing
- The ambient temperature in the cargo space is not greater than 25°C or less than 10°C and ideally kept at a steady 20°C.
- The animal does not show signs of obvious physical distress, such as:
  - Laboured breathing
  - Excessive salivation
  - Vomiting/diarrhoea
  - Frantic scratching, chewing or biting on the transport container
  - Frantic sounds

#### Dogs

One feeding bowl and one water bowl must be provided for each dog. These must be separate receptacles. Dogs are to be exercised immediately before loading to allow them the opportunity to urinate and/or defecate.

Transporting dogs by road requires regular breaks (every 4 hours) to check their container and bedding, monitor them as applicable and allow them the opportunity to urinate and/or defecate. Each dog should, one at a time, be safely and securely removed from their container on a double leash and taken outside the vehicle by the attendant in order to exercise and toilet. No more than one dog should be handled at a time. These rest/break stops must be undertaken in locations that allow for the safe removal and exercise of the dogs. It is recommended that dogs should be taken out in the same order at each break to establish a routine. Areas chosen for breaks should be well lit and where there are no obvious dangers or risks to the dog present. Breaks should be long enough to allow dogs to eat and drink if they want to, and for the food and water to be ingested enough to avoid feelings of sickness when the journey commences.

### Cats

Cats should have regular breaks (every 4 hours) to check their container, bedding and litter tray, monitor them as applicable and allow them access to water, food and litter resources. Breaks should be long enough to allow cats to eat and drink if they want to, and for the food and water to be ingested enough to avoid feelings of sickness when the journey commences. Food and water should be sited away from any litter trays and replenished at every stop. If it is necessary to open the container during transit, it should be done by authorised persons in an enclosed area so that the cat cannot escape.

### Puppies and Kittens

Puppies and kittens will require more frequent feeding depending on their age, body condition and health. In principle it is required every 2 to 4 hours.

<b>Animal</b>	<b>Recommended feeding frequency</b>	<b>Minimum legal frequency</b>	<b>Recommended water provision frequency</b>	<b>Minimum legal frequency</b>
Cat	Within 6-8 hours of being transferred to the care of a transportation service and offered twice during any 24hr period during transport (morning and evening)	Every 24 hours	Checked and replenished if necessary at each rest stop every 4 hours	Checked and replenished every 8 hours
Kitten	Within 2-4 hours of being transferred to the care of a transportation service and offered 3 times a day every 4 hours	Every 24 hours	Checked and replenished if necessary at each rest stop every 4 hours	Checked and replenished every 8 hours
Dog	Within 6-8 hours of being transferred to the care of a transportation service and offered twice during any 24hr period during transport (morning and evening)	Every 24 hours	Checked and replenished if necessary at each rest stop every 4 hours	Checked and replenished every 8 hours
Puppy	Within 2-4 hours of being transferred to the care of a transportation service and offered 3 times a day every 4 hours	Every 24 hours	Checked and replenished if necessary at each rest stop every 4 hours	Checked and replenished every 8 hours



## Section 2: Animal health and disease control checks

### 2.1 Cleaning<sup>34</sup>

The vehicle and containers must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected immediately before and after every transport of animals ideally using a disinfectant that is approved by the relevant competent authority.

It must be possible to clean and disinfect all parts of the vehicle/animal containers.

Each animal's container, bedding and litter should be checked at every rest stop<sup>35</sup> and if required, the container must be cleaned, the litter replaced, and the bedding checked for soiling to prevent the animal from becoming soiled with its bodily waste. If the animal needs to be moved to another container for cleaning, it must be done so in a manner that safeguards it from injury and prevents escape.

### 2.2 Barrier controls

Injured or diseased animals should not be transported unless they are being taken to a veterinary surgery for treatment. In the case of disease, adequate measures such as sneeze barriers, should be provided between containers to minimise transmission. A deep clean of the vehicle and its equipment should be undertaken following such transportation using an appropriate disinfectant. When transporting more than one dog or cat, ensure there are suitable sneeze barriers between containers to avoid disease transmission<sup>36</sup>.

### 2.3 Pre, during and post-vet checks

The following conditions must be met in order to allow intra-Union trade:

**Registered establishments:** dogs and cats must come from establishments registered by the competent national authority. It is also recommended that the destination is a registered establishment. These establishments must not be subject to any ban on animal health grounds, must have the animals regularly examined, notify authorities of possible disease, and comply with the requirements that ensure the welfare of the animals held as well as identification and traceability<sup>3738</sup>.

**Identification:** dogs and cats must be identified by the implantation of a transponder (microchip)<sup>3940</sup>.

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<sup>34</sup> Disease prevention measures: DA following Art. 125 (1) and 192, AHL

<sup>35</sup> Every rest stop should fulfil certain criteria, e.g. walking area for dogs must be near the main road and it has to be a stop for a driver too, so coffee, toilet, fuel must be available too etc.

<sup>36</sup> AAFF Feline Zoonosis Guide <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1098612X19880436>

<sup>37</sup> Directive 92/65/EEC

<sup>38</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-2775694\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-2775694_en)

<sup>39</sup> Must be conforming to ISO 11784 and must be compatible with the HDX or FDX-B technology (ISO 11785).

<sup>40</sup> See technical specifications in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 576/2013)



*Exceptions - EU countries authorise the trade in dogs or cats identifiable by a clearly readable tattoo if applied before 3 July 2011.*

**Vaccination against rabies:** dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies by an authorised veterinarian<sup>41</sup>.

- The animal must be at least 12 weeks old at the date the vaccine was administered
- The date of administration of the vaccine must not precede the date of implantation or reading of the transponder
- The validity of the vaccination starts no less than 21 days from the completion of the vaccine protocol for the primary vaccination, and any subsequent vaccination must have been carried out within the period of validity of the preceding vaccination.

*Exceptions - EU countries may authorise the trade in young dogs or cats that are less than 12 weeks old and have not received an anti-rabies vaccination; or are between 12 and 16 weeks old, have received an anti-rabies vaccination but 21 days have not elapsed since the completion of the vaccination protocol<sup>42</sup>, if:*

- a declaration of the owner<sup>43</sup> is attached to the health certificate stating that from birth until the time of dispatch, the animal has had no contact with wild animals of species susceptible to rabies, or;
- their mother on whom they still depend, and from the passport of their mother it can be established, that the mother received before their birth an anti-rabies vaccination which complied with the validity requirements<sup>44</sup>

**Parasite *Echinococcus multilocularis*:** dogs must, prior to entering one of the listed Member States<sup>45</sup> or Norway, be treated against the parasite *Echinococcus multilocularis*<sup>46</sup>:

- The treatment must be administered by a veterinarian within a period of not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours before the time of scheduled entry
- The treatment must be certified by the administering veterinarian in the relevant section of the passport

*Exceptions - Dogs traded directly between Member States listed<sup>40</sup> are exempted from the treatment against the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis*.*

**Clinical examination:** dogs and cats must undergo a clinical examination carried out by an authorised veterinarian within 48 hours prior to the time of dispatch. The veterinarian must verify that the animals show no signs of diseases and are fit to be transported for the intended journey<sup>47</sup>. The clinical

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<sup>41</sup> In accordance with Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 576/2013

<sup>42</sup> Set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 576/2013

<sup>43</sup> See model set out in Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013

<sup>44</sup> Set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 576/2013

<sup>45</sup> listed in the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878

<sup>46</sup> In accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772

<sup>47</sup> in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005



check is to be documented by the authorised veterinarian in the pet passport and to be confirmed in the TRACES certificate by the official veterinarian of the veterinary authority competent for the place of origin.

**Passport:** dogs and cats must be individually accompanied by a passport<sup>38</sup>. The passport must be completed and issued, signed and stamped by an authorised veterinarian and document the alphanumeric code displayed by the transponder (or the tattoo); the details of the rabies vaccination; the details of treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* (where applicable); and the clinical examination.

**Health certificate:** dogs and cats must be accompanied to the place of destination by a health certificate<sup>48</sup> issued by an official veterinarian of the EU country of dispatch, who:

- states the veterinary registration number assigned to the establishment of origin by the competent authority and the passport number of each animal of the consignment
- attests that the clinical examination was carried out
- notifies the movement to the competent authorities of destination through the Community Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) with the animal identified clearly under “cat” or “dog” category respectively - not under general category of “other mammals”.

Ideally, dogs and cats should also be tested for other diseases such as leishmaniasis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and heartworm.

## Section 3: Vehicle and Transporter Requirements

### 3.1 Authorisation of transporters

An animal owner can only establish a contract for the transport of the animal with an authorized entity<sup>49</sup>. The owner should ask the transporter if they are authorised for animal transport, have a registration number and, if possible, are listed on the respective general vet inspection website of relevant country.

Any person transporting live animals over 65km for commercial purposes must be authorised by the competent authority. There are two types of transporter authorisation:

Type 1 Authorisation: necessary for journeys over 65km but less than 8 hours in duration.

A person who applies for a type 1 authorisation must:

- Be established in an EU country

Demonstrate that they have sufficient staff, equipment and operational procedures in place to comply with the legislative requirements including good practice guides

- Not have been convicted of any serious animal welfare offences in the three years preceding the application.

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<sup>48</sup> Model in Part 1 of Annex E to Directive 92/65/EEC as last amended by Commission Decision 2013/518/EU

<sup>49</sup> Regulation Council Regulation 1/2005



Type 2 Authorisation: necessary for long journeys i.e. journeys in excess of 8 hours in duration

A person who applies for a type 2 authorisation must satisfy the conditions listed for type 1 above and in addition must submit:

- Details of the procedures in place enabling the transporter (i) to trace and record the movements of vehicles under their responsibility and (ii) contact drivers at any time during the journey
- Contingency plans in the event of emergencies

Authorisations will be valid for a period of 5 years unless otherwise stated.

Despite it not being a requirement of Type 1 Authorisation to have contingency plans in the event of emergencies, it is recommended that such contingency plans should be in place irrespective of the journey length.

### 3.2 Approval of transport vehicles

When the journey takes more than 8 hours, the means of transport must be approved by the competent authority. The vehicle should be presented for inspection in the manner in which it is routinely used to transport the animals i.e. the containers used must be in situ. This is necessary so that the inspector has a realistic overview of the proposed transport conditions for the species concerned.

Certificates of approval will be valid for a period of 5 years unless otherwise stated.

### 3.3 Transport documentation

All persons transporting animals for commercial reasons must, by law, carry documentation stating at least the following:

- The origin and ownership of the animals
- The place, date and time of departure
- The intended destination
- The expected duration of the intended journey<sup>50</sup>

Transporters must report the transport of animals to an approved local veterinarian and have a health TRACES certificate available for cross-border transport.

Contingency plans are only legally required for journeys over 8 hours but are recommended for all journeys irrespective of length.

The owner or person responsible for transport must provide detailed instructions in writing regarding supervision and care of animals during transport that comply with the recommendations in this document.

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<sup>50</sup> Though not required by law, it is also recommended that documentation also includes any stopover locations



Cats and dogs may only be moved into another Member State if they are marked with a transponder<sup>51</sup> and if they are accompanied by a duly completed pet passport<sup>52</sup>. The passport must state that the animals have valid anti rabies protection<sup>53</sup> along with information outlined in section 2.3 of this document.

Records should be kept of each vehicle used when animals are transported as well as details of the journeys undertaken. Where this is a regular journey, for example to take dogs for exercise, a general statement saying that the vehicle has been used for this purpose is sufficient. Where it is an atypical journey, for example to transport animals for sale, the details of this need to be specifically recorded.

Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES): A TRACES certificate ensures it is possible to trace all parties involved in movement and sale or placement of the animals, and establishes a harmonised approach across Member States. TRACES certificates should contain as follows:

- Consignor: Name and address of the breeder, keeper, animal welfare organisation, trading or placement agency in the country of origin
- Place of origin: Breeding facility, holding, trader's facility, animal shelter, killing station<sup>54</sup> or care centre in the country of origin
- Consignee: Name and address of the natural or legal person who is responsible for receiving the consignment in the country of destination<sup>55</sup>
- Place of Destination: Place to which animals are delivered for final unloading and to be kept<sup>56</sup>:
  - For trade: information and contact details of the holding or breeding facility in the country of destination
  - For placements by animal welfare organisations: information and contact details of new owner or care centre (including details of which animal welfare organisation, person receiving the animal (if different from above), animal shelter or facility and whether the animal is actually to be kept physically at this location and could be checked if needed).
- Place of loading: Place where animals are loaded, e.g. assembly centre, city and post code.
- Transporters: Approved transport company<sup>57</sup>
- Organiser<sup>58</sup>: Organiser of the transport
- Means of transport: in-depth details on kind of vehicle and vehicle identification details

Furthermore, a certificate from an official veterinarian must accompany the animal in order for the animal to be traded.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> For markings that took place before 3 July 2011, a readable tattoo instead of a transponder is also admissible.

<sup>52</sup> Model passport of the Annex to Decision 2003/803/EC or Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 577/2013)

<sup>53</sup> Validity requirements for anti-rabies vaccinations are set down in Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013

<sup>54</sup> A killing station is a term sometimes used for municipal pounds that only hold animals for the absolute minimum legally required time before euthanising them.

<sup>55</sup> Or the intermediate person/organisation, intermediary of the trading agency or placement agency, owner of the keeping facility that will take on the animal if the sale takes place without participation of third parties

<sup>56</sup> According to applicable law and excluding temporary stays

<sup>57</sup> Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

<sup>58</sup> The transporting company is also automatically entered as an organiser. If traders or animal welfare organisations have contracted transporters, the respective contracting entity shall be entered as organiser

<sup>59</sup> Annex E part 1 of Directive 92/65/EEC, as last amended by Implementing Decision 2013/518/EU

## Section 4: Contingency planning

### 4.1 Emergencies

Contingency plans are only legally required for journeys over 8 hours but it is recommended that all animal transporters must have contingency plans<sup>60</sup> in place for every journey, irrespective of length. These plans must outline the action to be taken in the event of emergencies such as:

- A vehicle breakdown
- A road traffic accident or significant traffic delays
- Extreme weather conditions
- An animal or animals becoming sick or injured during transport
- Any other situation that might cause any significant delay in arriving at destinations on route (if there are multiple stops), the final destination or jeopardise the welfare of the animals

Staff must be familiar with the contingency plans and they must be in possession of the equipment necessary, for example first aid kits and enough animal handling equipment for each animal, as well as snow socks, toolkits, jump cables, blankets and towels. Good practice suggests that they should undertake practical, live or desktop exercises to familiarise themselves with contingency plans and emergency procedures.

Staff must carry a contingency plan in the vehicle to know how to act in case of emergency. These include:

- contact details for key people,
- protocols to check the fitness, welfare and behavioural state of the animals
- contact with the organiser in order to decide on the best approach to protect animals and minimize suffering
- locations (or ability to quickly locate locations) of veterinary surgeries along the route
- clearly understood steps to ensure the rescue of animals from the vehicle during a fire or other accident

### 4.2 Transport of prohibited/restricted types of dogs

There are a number of countries and regions that do not allow movement of certain types of dogs due to breed specific regulations. Preparation for each journey should include research regarding the regulations pertaining to the movement of restricted/prohibited breeds in each country that the route of transport will take, not just the countries of departure and destination.

### 4.3 Transport of animals in extreme weather conditions

Extreme temperatures and high levels of humidity can adversely affect the welfare of animals during transport, increase the risk of unnecessary suffering and can be fatal. This is particularly relevant for animals being transported in containers. For this reason, when transporting animals in hot or cold weather conditions, the journey must be planned carefully, and contingencies put in place to ensure that temperature and humidity in the vehicle or container do not reach unacceptably high or low

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<sup>60</sup> An example of a contingency plan can be found in the Appendix 1



levels. Consideration must be given to whether it is necessary to transport animals when the temperature poses a risk, both while inside the vehicle and during periods where the animal may be outside of the vehicle e.g loading, unloading or breaks. Bearing in mind the climate and the fact that temperatures can rise quickly it should be mandatory for there to be an air conditioning system for pet transport vehicles.

The ambient temperature in the cargo space is not greater than 25°C or less than 10°C and ideally kept at a steady 20°C. Auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, heaters, blowers or air conditioning must be used in the animal cargo space to ensure the ambient temperature in that space does not reach the upper or lower range. The driver must regularly (at least hourly) check the temperature to ensure it is between 10°C and 25°C.

Animals must never be left in a vehicle unattended. The risk associated with leaving animals in warm vehicles is especially high and can result in them suffering from heat stroke and dying.<sup>61</sup>

### Hot weather conditions<sup>62</sup>

The following actions will reduce the risk of animals suffering during transport in hot and/or humid conditions:

- The journey should take place at the coolest part of the day i.e. night-time, early morning
- Air conditioning should always be used
- The animals should be inspected more frequently for signs of heat stress (see below for details of heat stress)
- Water should be offered more frequently than during normal weather conditions
- The space allowed per animal should be increased by 30%
- The roof should be light coloured to reduce solar gain

#### Signs of heat stress in dogs and cats:

- Panting, which increases as heatstroke progresses
- Drooling, salivating
- Agitation, restlessness (cats may pace)
- Bright red tongue
- Very red or pale gums
- Increased heart rate
- Breathing distress
- Vomiting, diarrhoea (possibly with blood)
- Signs of mental confusion, delirium
- Dizziness, staggering
- Weakness and lethargy
- Muscle tremors
- Seizures
- Collapsing and lying down
- Unconsciousness

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<sup>61</sup> It is difficult to give exact temperatures within vehicles because some animals are more prone to heatstroke than others e.g. very young animals, those with thick coats and those with short, flat faces.

<sup>62</sup> For more <https://www.rspcapetinsurance.org.au/pet-care/health/heatstroke-hyperthermia>

#### Treatment of heat stress in dogs and cats:

- Don't use ice-cold water or ice as this may worsen the problem
- Remove the animal from the hot environment immediately
- Apply or spray tepid/cool water onto the animal's fur and skin. Then apply a fan/fanning to maximise heat loss<sup>63</sup>
- Wetting down the area around the animal can also help<sup>64</sup>
- Offer cool water to drink
- Then take your pet to the nearest Veterinarian immediately
- Heatstroke is a life-threatening emergency – always see a vet. Even if the animal looks like they may be recovering, or heatstroke is suspected they should still always be checked by a vet

Care must be taken if dogs are being walked during rest stops to go to the toilet, as sand or asphalt road surfaces can become extremely hot and cause burns to paws.

#### Cold weather conditions

Hypothermia is a major concern during cold weather. Inadequate containers, insufficient calories, or becoming wet can make an animal much more susceptible to this condition.

If the container area is too large, it will not provide proper insulation to keep the animal warm and frostbite can occur<sup>65</sup>.

Animals transported in cold weather will likely need to eat extra calories to keep warm. When the exterior temperature is below freezing, calories should be increased by as much as 30%, depending on the animal and transport conditions.

Shivering is a sign the animal is too cold and is one of the first signs of hypothermia. A shivering animal should be slowly warmed until signs of hypothermia are gone. It is recommended to contact a veterinarian for any further recommendations regarding further care.

Stainless steel or metal bowls should be avoided and instead use plastic type materials.

Care must be taken if dogs are being walked during rest stops to go to the toilet. Ensure that they do not get wet while walking, or are dried before being loaded, that their paws are not exposed to ice or snow longer than necessary, that they do not come into contact with chemicals or salts used to de-ice roads and surfaces<sup>66</sup> and that their fur and paws are dried before being reloaded.

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<sup>63</sup> If the animal is severely overheated, it must be cooled down slowly. If done too fast, it can worsen the situation by stressing the body circulation. Cool bandages or not cool (but not ice-cold) sprinkling water on the body is recommended, starting on outer extremities (paws) and then moving to the core body

<sup>64</sup> If the animal is unconscious, ensure the airway is open and free from obstruction (pulling the tongue out and extending the neck) but be mindful of the risk of being bitten or injured.

<sup>65</sup> Frostbite occurs most commonly on the tail, paw pads and tips of the ears.

<sup>66</sup> The use of snow socks is recommended



#### 4.4 Care of sick or injured animals

Animals who are stressed by travelling can get sick before, during or even after the actual journey.

In the event that an animal becomes sick or injured during transport, it is the responsibility of the driver or attendant to provide it with immediate and appropriate care and attention and to contact a veterinary surgeon. The action taken will depend on the condition of the animal, as well as other issues such as the distance from the final destination. However, the contingency plans should contain all of the relevant information and guidelines on how to address potential problems during transport and the driver or attendant should be familiar with this information.

In the event that an animal is so sick or injured that the most humane option is euthanasia, the driver or attendant must have access to the contact details of a registered veterinary surgeons, for example, via a mobile phone internet service. The animal must be transported to the nearest registered veterinary surgeon as soon as possible and the owner/consigner contacted in order to make an appropriate decision and minimise any unnecessary suffering.



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## Appendix 1: Contingency plan

1. The transporter must be covered by an insurance company (contact details, phone number)
2. Should there be an accident, road closure or severe weather conditions the following should be implemented:
  - a. Consider cancelling the journey in its entirety, delaying the journey or returning to base and rearranging;
  - b. Use equipped satellite navigation to reroute around blockages;
  - c. Take advantage of sufficient drivers/staff and supplies for the animals on board in case of any length of delay;
  - d. Use air conditioning, heating and electric ventilation fitted to the vehicle;
  - e. Ensure two staff present at all times as animal welfare paramount. This should increase with the number of animals<sup>67</sup>.
3. Should the cross-border crossings not be in use the transporter should look for an alternative crossing or cancel the journey.
4. Should the vehicle suffer an irreparable breakdown then the breakdown service must cover onward journey to base, garage, or kennels/cattery. Back up vehicles which meet the requirements to protect welfare, including suitable containers and climate control should be available in case of emergencies. In advance of travel, local kennels/catteries on the route should be contacted to ensure if they could assist in the case of an emergency.
5. Should staff suffer from illness a replacement staff member to cover the onward journey to base, garage, or kennels/cattery should be provided.
6. Should an animal or animals suffer from illness or injury during the journey, all pet handlers and drivers must be Pet First Aid trained. Immediate contact must be made with a vet at the closest location so that professional assessment can be made.
7. Should an animal need to be euthanised then a vet must be contacted immediately, the owner of the animal must be notified along with the circumstances and photos surrounding the decision. Both vet and owner would have to make that decision.
8. The transport vehicle must be fully equipped to deal with extreme heat and cold weather conditions. It must have an independent power source provided by leisure batteries. The transporter must also carry cool pads, ice blocks, additional blankets and coats for the animals on board. Should this be for an extended period then the assistance of local kennels or catteries should be sought. The vehicle must be fully equipped to prevent extremes of temperature in all situations. If the temperature is forecast to be high enough to require additional cooling mats or ice blocks, the journey should not be undertaken.
9. Should the transporter become aware of a notifiable disease in the area they are travelling to then this area should be avoided if possible, by rerouting or even cancelling the trip. Should this not be possible then the animals must remain within the vehicle for quarantine until exiting the area. The transporter should contact a local vet for advice and inform health agency official at the ports and borders.

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<sup>67</sup> Two members of staff per 16 animals.



10. Contact list

- a. European emergency number 112
- b. Technical assistance vehicle \_\_\_
- c. Insurance contact number \_\_\_
- d. Transport company \_\_\_
- e. Doctor<sup>68</sup> \_\_\_
- f. Hospital<sup>36</sup> \_\_\_
- g. Veterinarian<sup>36</sup> \_\_\_
- h. Responsible at departure \_\_\_
- i. Responsible during travel \_\_\_
- j. Responsible at destination \_\_\_
- k. Competent authority \_\_\_

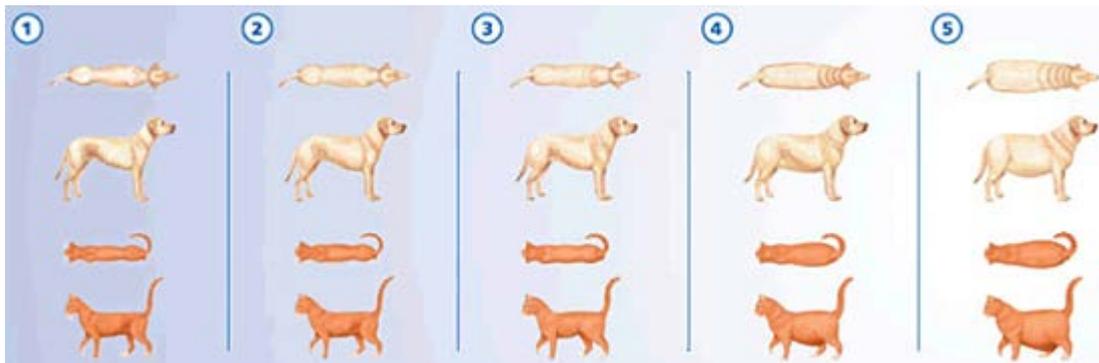
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<sup>68</sup> Should be locatable throughout the journey route via mobile search or mapping e.g. google maps.

## Appendix 2: Animal health & welfare indicators

Indicator	Description	Target
Animal has an injury due to loading/transport/unloading	Animal shows signs of wounding or injury during/after transport	None
Animals has drinking water	Easily accessible clean water is provided to the animal in sufficient quantity	All
Animal has bedding material	Each animal is provided with absorbent material	All
Animal shows signs of disease	Animal exhibits signs of infectious disease e.g. nasal or ocular discharge, vomiting etc	None
Body condition score below 3/9 or 9/9	On a scale of 1-9 where 1 = emaciation and 9 = overweight, the animal scores between 1-3 with 1 defined as “Bones easily visible (i.e. ribs, pelvis, lumbar vertebrae); loss of muscle mass, obvious waist and abdominal tuck” or “Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.” <sup>6970</sup> .	None

### Body condition



#### 1: Emaciated to very thin

Ribs, spine and hip bones are visible from a distance. No discernible body fat and an obvious loss of muscle mass to ribs, spine and hip bones are easily visible. No palpable body fat and minimal loss of muscle mass.

<sup>69</sup> Development of a new welfare assessment protocol for practical application in long-term dog shelters S. Barnard, C. Pedernera, L. Candeloro, N. Ferri, A. Velarde, P. Dalla Villa - Veterinary Record 2016

<sup>70</sup> WSAVA Body condition score



#### 2: Thin to underweight

Ribs can be easily felt and may be visible with no palpable fat. Top of the spine is visible and hip bones may also be prominent to ribs can be easily felt with minimal fat covering. Waist is easily noted when viewed from above. An “abdominal tuck” is also present, meaning that the abdomen appears tucked up behind the rib cage when viewed from the side.

#### 3: Ideal

Well-proportioned. Ribs can be easily felt without excess fat covering. Waist can be observed behind the ribs when viewed from above. Abdominal tuck is present.

#### 4: Overweight to heavy

Ribs can be felt through a slight excess fat covering. Waist is visible from above, but not prominent. Abdominal tuck is present to ribs are difficult to feel under a heavy fat covering. Noticeable fat deposits over the lower back and base of the tail. Waistline is absent or barely visible and abdomen may appear obviously rounded or saggy.

#### 5: Obese to severely obese

Ribs can only be felt with heavy pressure. Significant fat deposits over the lower back and base of the tail. Waist and abdominal tuck are both absent. Obvious abdominal distention may also be present to ribs cannot be felt under a very heavy fat covering. Large fat deposits are seen over the neck, chest, spine and base of the tail. Waist and abdominal tuck are both absent. Obvious abdominal distention and a broad, flat back may also be present.