

Regulation of Live Animal Transportation

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I. Vision

Volt will strictly regulate the transport of live animals in the EU and ban the long-term export of livestock animals to countries outside the EU.

II. For farm animals

For farmed animals, transport should be reduced, refined and replaced by meat/carcasses and semen/embryos as recommended by the European Food Safety Authority¹, World Organisation for Animal Health² and Federation of Veterinarians of Europe³.

Species and category-specific journey times with a maximum travel time of:

- 4 hours for poultry and rabbits.
- 8 hours for adult bovines, ovines, and swine⁴.

Journey time by land should be defined in the law from the beginning to the end of a journey, including loading and unloading. In the case of sea transport, the time spent by animals on the road and until they reach the final destination (not the final harbour) must be added.

The export of pregnant animals to countries outside the EU should be forbidden.

Long-term transport of live animals to countries outside the EU should be banned.

Livestock vessels must be approved by an EU authority and comply with the mandatory technical requirements and conditions.

Species and category-specific conditions for transportability, minimum and maximum external temperatures, space allowance, watering and feeding shall be set by law.

¹ Scientific Opinion Concerning the Welfare of Animals during Transport, available at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1966>

² An overview of the OIE's standards of animal welfare: an new interactive Infographic, available at: <https://www.oie.int/en/an-overview-of-the-oies-standards-on-animal-welfare-a-new-interactive-infographic/>

³ FVE calls to ensure better animal welfare during animal transport, available at: <https://fve.org/publications/fve-calls-to-ensure-better-animal-welfare-during-animal-transport/>

⁴ Live Animal Transport: Time to change the rules, White Paper on the revision of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005, available at: https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/files/eurogroupforanimals/2021-01/2020_01_27_efa_transport_white_paper_0.pdf

III. For fish and aquatic animals

Water quality parameters will be monitored continuously and maintained throughout the journey.

Handling should be gentle and time out of water must be kept to a minimum.

Data required to assess the impact of the journeys will be recorded and made available to all operators involved in the transport.

Live transport vehicles shall be constructed in such a way as to prevent injury and to monitor and maintain the necessary water quality.

The condition of the fish and their ability to withstand the rigours of transport will be assessed before loading.

Contingency plans must be in place to manage expected and unforeseen problems.

Sufficient, appropriately trained personnel will be available to carry out measures.

IV. For horses, asses, mules and hinnies

Maximum journey times and adequate as well as fixed rest periods must be indicated between the individual stages of the overall journey.

We propose to increase total rest time and cleaning of the vehicle to reduce stress levels.

Better regulation is a public health issue as we want to prevent zoonotic diseases and thus future pandemics.

Member States should establish a high-standard network of authorised control posts and assembly centres solely for equidae.

We propose better staff training and supervision to prevent avoidable risks to the welfare of equidae based on the EU Animal Transport Guides⁵.

Voluntary observation by cameras during transport should be strongly recommended.

⁵ Animal Transport Guides, available at: <http://www.animaltransportguides.eu/>

Comfortable and good ventilation during transport should be guaranteed (animals should not travel in extreme temperatures).

V. For the commerce of cats and dogs

Member States should have a clear set of rules that should be harmonised at EU level.

In addition to species-specific regulations, effective enforcement must be in place to guarantee legal requirements.

Unclear regulations that encourage illegal pet commerce and trade need to be further specified.

We recommend an EU common database for these animals.

VI. For amphibians, zebrafish, rodents, ferrets, minipigs, and non-human primates are transported for scientific purposes

The transport of laboratory animals should be avoided.

Clear and species-specific provisions for laboratory animals shall be set in law, including litter and container enrichment, temperature ranges, feeding and watering requirements, grouping and density provisions.

A person trained in the handling, transport, and care of these animals must be present throughout the journey, except when the driver or the transporter takes over the duties of the attendant.

Journey logs should be kept with data collected during transportation.

Guides for good practices need to be translated into all EU languages and disseminated in all Member States.

Clear and species-specific provisions shall be adopted for the transport of laboratory animals by air.

Member States shall carry out announced and unannounced controls to assess compliance.

Geolocation systems should track the location of animals as well as the duration of the journey and any events of non-compliance with transport schedules.

The reports submitted annually by the Member States on the inspections carried out shall include a detailed description of the laboratory animals.