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Home duties

Thank you for the opportunity to let you know that animal transport is not conducted humanely. For instance, over the years, I've witnessed many trucks with downed sheep, also sheep limbs protruding at the most dreadful angles from the trucks. Also, I've seen cattle down, chickens hanging out of crates and some have fallen onto the road. Pigs are transported in extremely hot weather (as are the other livestock) and pigs are especially prone to sun & windburn. They're probably crackling before they even reach the slaughterhouse! Then they're unloaded in the heat. Very cruel. Sheep are crammed into pens in 44°C heat and left for days with no water or food - obviously some die of from smothering & dehydration.

SA1.2 A person in charge who is transferring responsibility for livestock to be further transported for longer than 24 hours, must water the animals.

SA4 iii) An animal is unfit for the journey if it is showing signs of ANY injury, blind in any eye or pregnant and must not be transported, unless for its own welfare. Diarrhoea causes dehydration & fatigue, causing loss of balance.

SA5.2 Time off water must never exceed 24 hours, especially when over 30°. Balancing in ~~the~~ moving truck requires stamence. Weak, pregnant, lactating or immature animals must not be transported, unless for their own welfare.

SA5.6 No animal - whether sick or injured or even scared, must never be dragged from a vehicle.

SA5.7 Electric prodders must not be used, unless its necessity can be proven in court.

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SA 5.8 Dogs must be muzzled.

SA 5.14) Owners must make arrangements to take action during extreme hot or cold weather conditions to minimise stock welfare. Animals unfit for travel must be treated by a vet or euthanased humanely, immediately.

SHEEP) Water denial must not exceed 24 hours, lambs under 6 months must not be off water for more than 12 hours, pregnant ewes ~~to~~ must not be unwatered for more than 12 hours and must not travel unless for their own welfare.

GB 11.2 Sick or unwell sheep must not be transported according to General Standard SA 4.1.

GB 11.1 Water denial ~~to~~ must not exceed 24 hours.

GB 11.12 Sheep's high level of herding instinct must be used to handle them.

PIGS) Time off water must not exceed 16 hours and enough room must be available for all pigs to lay down simultaneously, for fatigue reduction and then given water, food & rest for 12 hours before starting another journey.

GP 9.1 i) ii) iii) iv) are all health conditions that must be considered & rejected for transport.

GP 9.2 Transporting pregnant & lactating sows must be avoided.

GP 9.3 Lactating sows & their piglets must only be transported if necessary for their health and must have adequate space to lay down. Pigs must not be transported on 30° or above, due to sunburn & windburn. Night time or evenings are more humane.

Piglets should have tarps in winter & rubber matting & space to lay down. Stock people ~~to~~ must use their body position to move pigs - not steel bars.

CATTLE

SB4.1 48 Hours is much too long to be off water. Cattle die on trucks & fall over through rough driving, causing injuries.

GB4.1 Time off water must be 24 hours maximum.

GB4.11 Calves under 1 month old ~~to~~ must have sufficient space to lie down on their sternum and have bedding straw - not sawdust. Pregnant cattle must not be transported unless for their own welfare: and must be watered & fed soon after unloading.

GB4.9 Calves between 5 and 30 days old, travelling weatherless, must have a liquid feed every 12 hours.

GB4.5 Calves born earlier than a normal pregnancy (including induced calves) must be at equivalent stage of fitness when transported, compared with normal, full-term calves.

GB4.12 Calves less than 30 days old, must have protection from heat, sun, wind & rain in a vehicle with an enclosed front and effective ventilation. Additional care must be taken to protect calves from cold stress & wind chill during transport.

GB4.16 Calves under 30 days old must be handled with care.

GB4.17 Handling techniques must ^{INCLUDE} strategies to make best use of high level of herding instincts for low stress handling.

POULTRY

GB 10.6 Birds held in containers for slaughter must be slaughtered as soon as possible.

GB 10.7 When poultry is sold at auctions, markets or sales yards, they ~~to~~ ^{MUST} be unloaded immediately. Poultry must be placed in pens or containers at appropriate densities and provided with food & water.

FOOTNOTES

- GB 10.9 During hot & cold weather, depending on the air flow, the number of birds per container ~~should~~ ^{must} be adjusted to keep load temperatures & humidity within an acceptable range.
- GB 10.10 All birds must be able to sit on the floor ~~simultaneously~~ simultaneously.
- GB 10.11 Density reductions are a must in hot weather.
- GB 10.12 Suitable covers that enable sufficient ventilation, must be used to protect birds in containers from wind & rain & cold conditions. Careful consideration must be given to using side covers, because they can reduce air flow through the load, preventing adequate ventilation.
- GB 10.16 Birds in transit or awaiting unloading for slaughter must not remain in a parked vehicle ~~for~~ because of lack of ventilation or shade.
- GB 10.20 Birds must be carried in properly designed containers to prevent toe & foot damage.
- GB 10.23 The maximum meat chickens weighing less than 1.7 kg loaded by hand ~~should~~ ^{must} be 8 birds.
- GB 10.24 1.7 - 2 kg birds must be 3 birds in each hand.
- GB 10.25 & 26. Large hens (end of lay) must be held by the body, not legs and the cage door must be large.
- GB 10.29 Conveyors must not be on steep angles or operated at speeds that cause birds to smother.

I sincerely hope that this information helps the animals and I hope that all of the "musts" can be made into standards, not guidelines.

Thank you.
C. Hooper