The Welfare of Animal during Transport

Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 27 – 29 August 2013

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi
OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
t.ishibashi@oie.int
Summary of Evolution - OIE standards development -

1. Transport (how to move) → Slaughter/Killing (how to kill) → Production (how to raise)

2. Terrestrial animals → Aquatic animals

For the moment, for farmed finfish only (not for molluscs and crustaceans)

Need established scientific evidence that animals can feel pain!

1) Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare
2) transport of animals by land;
3) transport of animals by sea;
4) transport of animals by air;
5) slaughter of animals;
6) killing of animals for disease control purposes;
7) stray dog population control;
8) Use of animals in research and education
9) Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems
10) Animal welfare and broiler production systems (adopted in 2013)

See details under:
http://www.oie.int/fr/normes-internationales/code-terrestre/  Section 7
Section 7: Welfare of Farmed Fish (2013)

1) Introduction to recommendations for the welfare of farmed fish
2) Welfare of farmed fish during transport
3) Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption
4) Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes

See details under:
http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/aquatic-code/access-online/
Important OIE Definitions for Animal Welfare during Transport

✓ **Animal welfare**

• means how an *animal* is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An *animal* is in a good state of *welfare* if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good *animal welfare* requires *disease* prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane *slaughter/killing*. *Animal welfare* refers to the state of the *animal*; the treatment that an *animal* receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

✓ **Animal handler**

• means a person with a knowledge of the behaviour and needs of *animals* who, with appropriate experience and a professional and positive response to an *animal’s* needs, can achieve effective management and good *welfare*. Competence should be gained through formal training and/or practical experience.
✓ Competent Authority
• means the Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of a Member having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the whole territory.

✓ Container
• means a non-self-propelled receptacle or other rigid structure for holding animals during a journey by one or several means of transport.

✓ Disinfection
• means the application, after thorough cleansing, of procedures intended to destroy the infectious or parasitic agents of animal diseases, including zoonoses; this applies to premises, vehicles and different objects which may have been directly or indirectly contaminated.
✓ Feral animals
• means an animal of a domesticated species that now lives without direct human supervision or control.

✓ Journey
• An animal transport journey commences when the first animal is loaded onto a vehicle/vessel or into a container and ends when the last animal is unloaded, and includes any stationary resting/holding periods. The same animals do not commence a new journey until after a suitable period for rest and recuperation, with adequate feed and water.

✓ Loading/unloading
• Loading means the procedure of moving animals onto a vehicle/vessel or into a container for transport purposes, while unloading means the procedure of moving animals off a vehicle/vessel or out of a container.

✓ Post-journey period
• means the period between unloading and either recovery from the effects of the journey or slaughter (if this occurs before recovery).
✓ Pre-journey period
  • means the period during which animals are identified, and often assembled for the purpose of loading them.

✓ Resting point
  • means a place where the journey is interrupted to rest, feed or water the animals; the animals may remain in the vehicle/vessel or container, or be unloaded for these purposes.

✓ Restrain
  • means the application to an animal of any procedure designed to restrict its movements.

✓ Space allowance
  • means the measure of the floor area and height allocated per individual or body weight of animals.
Stocking density
- means the number or body weight of *animals* per unit area on a *vehicle/vessel* or *container*.

Transport
- means the procedures associated with the carrying of *animals* for commercial purposes from one location to another by any means.

Transporter
- means the person licensed by the *Competent Authority* to transport *animals*.

Travel
- means the movement of a *vehicle/vessel* or *container* carrying *animals* from one location to another.

Vehicle/vessel
- means any means of conveyance including train, truck, aircraft or ship that is used for carrying *animal(s)*.
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

Originally adopted in 2005

◆ Applicable animals (Preamble):
  ➢ Domesticated animals (cattle, buffaloes, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and equines)
  ➢ Largely applicable to some other animals, e.g. deer, other camelids and ratites.
  ➢ Wild animals and feral animals may need different conditions.

◆ Journey duration (Art 7.3.1)
  ➢ should be kept to the minimum
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

Animal Behaviour (Article 7.3.2.1.):

- Behaviours of individual animals/groups of animals vary depending on breed, sex, temperament and age, and history
- Common behaviour patterns of domestic animals include:
  - To follow a leader by instinct
  - To try to escape if any person approaches closer than certain distance which defines “flight zone”
  - Animal handlers should use the point of balance at the animals shoulder
  - To have wide-angle vision, but limited forward binocular vision and poor perception of depth
  - To have highly sensitive sense of smell and may react differently to smells during the journey
  - To hear over a greater range of frequencies than humans and more sensitive to higher frequencies and may go panic by constant loud noises and by sudden noises.
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

Distractions and their removal (Art 7.3.2.2)

- Design of loading /unloading facilities should minimise the potential distractions that may cause approaching animals to stop, turn back.
  - Reflection of shiny metal or wet floor – move a lamp /change lighting
  - Dark entrance – illuminate with indirect lighting
  - Animals seeing moving objects up ahead
  - Dead ends
  - Loose object hanging
  - Uneven floor and sudden drop in the floor
  - Sounds of air hissing, clanging and banging of metal objects
  - Air blowing into the face of animals
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

 Responsibilities (Art 7.3.3.):

- The welfare of animals during their journey is a joint responsibility of all people involved.
  - Owners and managers of the animals
  - Business agents
  - Animal handlers
  - Transport companies, vehicle owners and drivers
  - Managers of facilities
  - Competent Authorities

- All individuals including veterinarians, should receive appropriate training and be competent to meet their responsibilities

- The receiving Competent Authority should report back to the sending Competent Authority
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

◆ Competence (Art 7.3.4.):

- All people responsible for animal during journey should be competent according to their responsibility gained through formal training/experience
- Assessment of competence of animal handlers should address knowledge and ability to apply that knowledge in:
  - planning of journey incl. space, feed and water requirements
  - responsibilities during the journey including loading, unloading
  - sources of advice
  - animal behavior
  - assessment of fitness to travel
  - relevant authorities and applicable regulations
  - general disease prevention procedures
  - maintaining a journey log and other records
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

◆ Planning of Journey (Art 7.3.5.):
  - Adequate planning is a key factor affecting welfare of animals during the journey.
  - Plans should be made in relation to:
    • Preparation of animals for journey
    • Nature and duration of journey
    • Vehicle and container design and maintenance
    • Special provision for transport in vehicle on roll-on/roll off vessels or container
    • Space allowance,
    • Rest, water and feed
    • Ability to observe animals during journey
    • Control of disease
    • Emergency response procedures
    • Other conditions
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

Documentation (Art 7.3.6.):

- Animals should not be loaded until documentation required is complete.
- Documentation accompanying should include:
  - journey plan/emergency management plan
  - veterinary certificate
  - animal identification
  - stock density estimate for each load of consignment
  - journey log
- When veterinary certification is required, it should include
  - fitness of animal to travel
  - animal ID
  - health status, etc.
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

◆ Pre-journey period (Art 7.3.7.):

➢ General provisions:
  • The need for pre-journey rest should be judged by veterinarian or other competent person
  • Pre-journey assembly area should be designed to...
  • Consideration to feed and water
  • Vehicle and containers should be cleared

➢ Selection of compatible groups
  • Are animals reared together? Same species? Age difference? With or without horn/antlers...

➢ Fitness to travel
  • Each animal should be inspected by a veterinarian or an animal handler to assess fitness to travel
  • Animals are unfit to travel include:
    – sick, injured, weak animal
    – blind in both eyes
    – newborn with unhealed navel
    – pregnant to become within 10% gestation period at the time of unloading
    – female having given birth within 48hr without young
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

Loading (Art 7.3.8.):

- Competent supervision
  - Loading should be supervised/conducted by animal handlers.

- Facilities (including collection area, race and loading ramp)
  - Dimension, slope, surface etc. should be appropriately designed
  - Properly illuminated with brighter light level inside vehicle
  - Ventilation should provide fresh air, remove heat, humidity and noxious fume.

- Goads and other aids (principles in case of their use)
  - Performance standards should be established in which numerical scoring used to evaluate the use of such instrument, and to measure the percentage of animals moved with an electric instrument and the percentage of animal slipping or falling as a result of their use.
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

◆ Travel (Art 7.3.9):
  ➢ Environment within vehicles and containers
    • To secure ventilation
    • In hot weather, journey stop periods should be minimise and park under shade
    • To remove faeces and urines from the floor to avoid slipping
  ➢ Sick, injured or dead animals
    • To act according to emergency response plan
    • Sick and injured animal should be segregated
  ➢ Water and feed requirements
  ➢ Rest periods
  ➢ In-transit observation
    • Animals should be observed at each stop to ensure that they are properly confined and their physical condition is satisfactory.
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

Unloading and Post-Journey Handling (Art 7.3.10):

- Unloading should be supervised/conducted by animal handlers.
- Sick or injured animals
- Addressing disease risks – possible need for segregation of transported animals at the destination
- Cleaning and disinfection (physical cleaning + use of detergent, plus possibly disinfection)
Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land

Actions in the event of refusals to allow the completion of the journey (Art 7.3.11):

- The animal welfare should be the first consideration in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of journey.
- When animals are refused import, the Competent Authority of importing countries should make suitable isolation facilities to allow the unloading animals from a vehicle without posing a risk to the health of national herd or flock, pending resolution of situation.
- In the event that a Competent Authority requires animals to remain on the vehicle:
  - Water, feed and independent veterinarian
- The OIE should utilise its informal procedures for dispute mediation to identify a mutually agreed solution.
Species-Specific Issues (Art 7.3.12):

- **Camelids** in the New World (llamas, alpacas, guanaco, vicuna) have good eyesight and can negotiate steep slopes. They load most easily as a bunch as a single animal will strive to re-join others.

- **Cattle** are social animals and may become agitated if they are singled out. Cattle tend to avoid “dead end” passages.

- **Goats** should be handled calmly ...

- **Horses** have good eyesight and a very wide angle of vision. When horses are to travel in groups, their shoes should be removed.

- **Pigs** have poor eyesight, and may move reluctantly in unfamiliar surroundings. Pigs are susceptible to motion sickness when in transit. Feed deprivation prior to loading may be beneficial.

- **Sheep** are sociable animals with good eyesight, a relatively subtle and undemonstrative behavior and a tendency to “flock together”, especially when they are agitated....
Thank you for your attention

Organisation mondiale
de la santé animale

World Organisation
for Animal Health

Organización Mundial
de Sanidad Animal