

Particular welfare needs in animal transport: unweaned animals and pregnant females

ANIT Workshop on Animal Welfare during Transport – 25 May 2021

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Structure of the Presentation

1. Transport of unweaned animals



2. Transport of pregnant females



- **Main issues**
- **Best practices**
- **Policy recommendations**

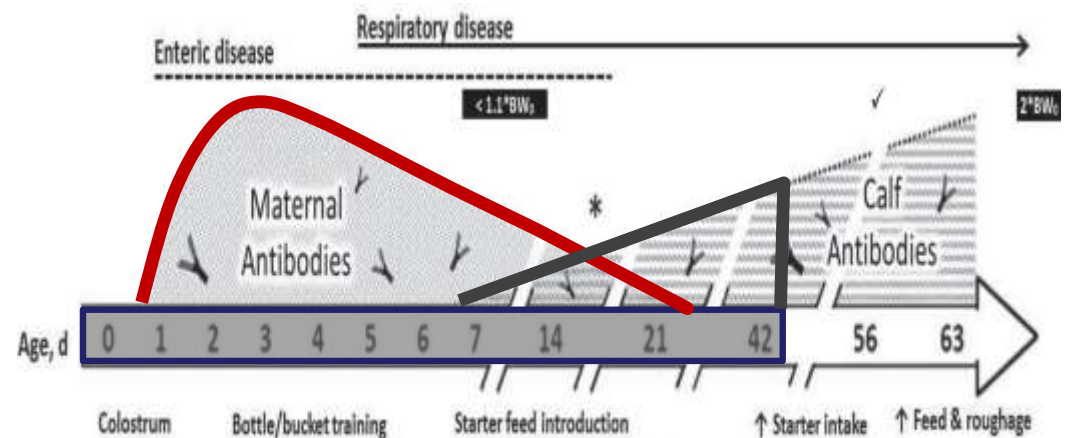


1. Transport of unweaned animals

Main issues over long journeys:

Unweaned calves (2 - 4 weeks of age)

- Prolonged hunger
- Prolonged thirst
- Resting problems
- Thermal stress
- Disease



Hulbet and Moisa, 2016

- Animal-based measures



1. Transport of unweaned animals

Best practices - Preparation for transport

- Fitness for transport
- Proper feeding with rubber teats
- Electrolyte solution should not be provided as a feeding strategy
- 3h of rest after a milk meal
- Water





1. Transport of unweaned animals

Best practices – during journey:

- 12 h interval between milk meals
- Water all time with rubber teats
- Space allowance to stand up, lie down and turn around without hindrance
- Adequate bedding
- Effective temperature between 5 - 25 °C





1. Transport of unweaned animals

Policy recommendations:

- Age of transport:
 - Beef calves after weaning
 - Veal calves from 6 weeks of age
- Specific protocols for the assessment of fitness for transport
- Proper feeding management in collection centres
- Feeding devices adequate to the sucking behaviour





1. Transport of unweaned animals

Policy recommendations:

- Records of feeding and watering frequency and amount
- Transport duration based on feeding intervals
- Protocols to ensure thermal comfort
- Research on:
 - Feeding intervals during transport
 - Feeding and drinking systems in the lorry
 - Optimal space allowance
 - Animal-based measures



2. Transport of pregnant females

Main issues

- Methods to determine the gestational age
- Fitness for transport according to the stage of gestation
- Appropriate space allowance, partitions, ceiling height and bedding material.
- Maximum journey duration



Photo: Animals' Angels

2. Transport of pregnant females



Best practices

- Confirmation age of gestation before transport
 - date of insemination or mating
 - Ultrasonography?
 - Other methods
- Transport before the last third of gestation
- Increase space allowance

	Gestation length		
	Total	90%	Last third
Cows	284	255	190
Sheep	150	135	100
Goats	155	139	103
Sows	115	104	77

2. Transport of pregnant females



Policy recommendations

- Documentation of the gestational age
- Research:
 - Fitness for transport
 - Methods to determine the gestational age
 - Space allowance



Photo: Animals' Angels

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