



Cattle on long journeys



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www.animaltransportguides.eu

ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES

Long journeys = over 8 hours, including (un)loading and stops

Animals	Duration of transport		
Cattle	Max. 14 hours transport	Min. 1 hour rest (watering and feeding)	Max. 14 hours transport
Unweaned calves	Max. 9 hours transport	Min. 1 hour rest (watering and feeding)	Max. 9 hours transport



After these maximum journey times, animals must be unloaded, fed and watered and be rested for at least 24 hours



Preparing: specific organization and provisions

Two days before the journey

- Check **weather forecast** to avoid extreme weather conditions
- Plan** the journey route and check journey duration
- Check rest spots and/or control post** for food quality, feeding and resting equipment, milking facilities (in case of dairy cattle). Book if everything is OK
- Check whether the vehicle has a functioning **temperature monitoring system** and clean **drinking devices**
- Make sure you have all **necessary documents** (e.g. contingency plan, journey plan, health certificates)
- Organize** your loading
- Ask for **all cattle to be well rested, watered and fed** with sufficient good quality feed



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D – Day!

- Prepare** the vehicle
 - Provide clean and fresh **straw** bedding (10kg straw/m², covering the entire floor surface)
 - Prepare **water and food** according to the type and the number of cattle
- Load all cattle **calmly**
- Start** your journey as soon as loading is completed

Adult cattle	
Food	Water
2 kg / 100 kg live-weight, good quality hay	10 – 50 L/day/animal, according to age and climate conditions



Low stress journey

- Drive **smoothly** and prefer **highways**
- Keep **drinking devices clean** during the journey
- **Check the fitness** of all cattle (no sign of thermal distress, no signs of stress and no injuries) at every stop. Activate the **contingency plan** immediately and take appropriate action, if you find impaired fitness
- Before arriving - **call the place of arrival**, to arrange quick unloading of cattle and good provision of water and food (if necessary)



Temperature management

Good temperature: 5°C to 30°C – adjust to humidity (with ventilation system)

High humidity makes it more difficult to cope with high temperature. Therefore, when temperature and humidity are very high, avoid or minimise transportation



In case of warm weather

- Prefer to drive in the **nighttime** to avoid high temperatures
- Park passively ventilated vehicles at right angles to **wind direction**
- **Open** all lateral shutters or flaps
- If this is not possible, drive to **closest rest spot**
- Make sure **water is available for all animals**: drinking system and extra water buckets on board

Livestock Weather Safety Index						
Dry Bulb Temp (°C)	Relative humidity (%)					
	50	60	70	80	90	100
25,6	22,2	23,3	23,9	23,9	25	25,6
26,7	23,3	23,9	25	25,6	26,1	26,7
27,8	23,9	24,4	25,6	26,1	27,2	27,8
28,9	25	25,6	26,7	27,2	28,3	28,9
30	25,6	26,7	27,2	28,3	28,9	30
31,1	26,7	27,2	27,8	29,4	30,6	31,1
32,2	27,2	28,3	28,3	30,6	31,1	32,2
33,3	28,3	28,9	30	31,1	32,2	
34,4	28,9	30	31,1	32,2		
35,6	30	31,1	32,2			
36,7	30,6	31,7				
37,8	31,1	32,8				

■ Good! ■ Danger
■ Alert ■ Emergency

Milking lactating cows (see specific factsheet)

- **Milk** lactating cows at least every 12 hours
- Even better! Make sure that the cows can **eat and drink while milking or resting**, before they are re-loaded to resume the journey



Long journeys of calves (see specific factsheet)



Call the farm or the control post to arrange **quick watering and feeding at arrival**, and proper climate conditions for calves (e.g. pre-warming of building and milk-replacer)