

# Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae (Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- WORLD HORSE WELFARE
- FEEVA (Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations)
- ANIMALS' ANGELS
- ATA (Animal Transportation Association)
- AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHAMBER OF VETERINARY SURGEONS
- AWIN (Animal Welfare Indicators)
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- EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS
- FISE (Italian Equestrian Sports Federation)
- FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe)
- FFE (French Equestrian Federation)
- UECBV (European Livestock and Meat Trades Union)

*These organisations will be referred to as the Stakeholder Platform within the guidelines.*

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## A special thank you:

The Stakeholder Platform would like to express their gratitude and thanks to all the organisations and individuals who have assisted in the development of the guidelines, through the provision of information, feedback and support.

**This guide has been developed following the successful publication of:  
“Practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines”.**

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# PREFACE

*The Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae*<sup>1</sup> have been designed to provide clear and helpful advice for anyone involved in transporting horses<sup>2</sup>, ponies, donkeys or their hybrids, to assist them in determining whether an animal is fit to travel or not.

The guidelines aim to support good animal welfare throughout the transport process (i.e. before, during and after travel). It is in everyone's interest to transport animals that are fit:

- To help **maintain good health** among animals and humans and decrease the risk of disease transmission
- To **avoid suffering**
- To **avoid penalties**, financial losses or the withdrawal of the transporter's authorisation, or the driver's certificate of competence.

The guidelines have been developed via a process of general consensus by a Stakeholder Platform, which includes experts in the fields of animal transport, welfare, veterinary medicine, industry<sup>3</sup>, research and enforcement. Many thanks go to those who have contributed to the development of this document.



**Some of the conditions presented in the guidelines reflect extreme situations which are NOT representative of the usual state of horses, ponies, donkeys and their hybrids.**

**Use the guidelines to help protect animal health and welfare, and public health.**

**Anyone involved in the transportation of equidae either directly or indirectly has a responsibility to ensure good welfare practices are in place.** *Refer to page 48 for full details.*



<sup>1</sup>For the purpose of the guidelines the term 'Equidae' refers to horses, ponies, donkeys and their hybrids.

<sup>2</sup>By road, sea or air.

<sup>3</sup>Equine sport and breeding, meat and livestock traders.

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# FOREWORD

*“It is my pleasure to commend this visual guide to health conditions that may impact on the fitness of animals to travel to you. This clear and simple guide will help all those involved in animal transport to quickly and easily assess the situation and understand what course of action to take.*

*Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted public policy issue that includes important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions. The OIE believes it is very important to use all available expertise and resources, including those from academia, the research community, relevant industry groups and non-government organisations to achieve the best outcomes. Effective implementation of our animal welfare standards depends on stakeholders understanding them.”*

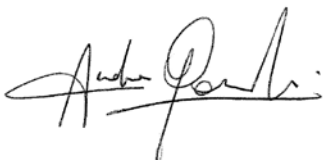


**Dr Bernard Vallat**

Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for 15 years



*“EU Regulation 1/2005 states that “No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey”. With this provision the legislator recognized the very important risk to welfare deriving from the transport of unfit animals. As in many cases, proper enforcement of the legislation depends upon it being understood. This is why these guidelines play an important role in assisting everyone involved in the transport of horses to ensure they are in full compliance with the legislation. Documents such as this are vital tools for maintaining good health and welfare amongst transported animals.”*



**Andrea Gavinelli**

Head of Unit for Official Controls and Eradication of Diseases in Animals – European Commission



# INTRODUCTION

## The guidelines aim to contribute to:

- Improved animal welfare and the transport of **fit and healthy Equidae**.
- The **reduction of public health risks** which may occur through the handling and transporting of unfit animals, or the consumption of their meat.
- Protecting the **health and safety** of individuals involved in the transport of Equidae.
- Developing a **consistent approach** across the European Union (EU) through providing a **clearer understanding** of the requirements of *Regulation (EC) 1/2005*.

## POINTS TO NOTE ABOUT THE GUIDELINES:

- They cover **all forms of transport of any Equidae**, whether in connection with an economic activity or not.
- They are **not applicable** to Equidae transported:
  - **Directly to a veterinary practice or clinic for treatment under veterinary advice or supervision**, where the veterinarian ensures no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animal;
  - For **research/scientific purposes**<sup>1</sup>;
  - In connection with **mandatory measures of disease control**.<sup>2</sup>
- Specific references to Equidae intended for slaughter are included owing to the legal requirements relating to the fitness and management of these animals.
- Photographs and drawings are included as examples to illustrate a condition; **these must not be considered as the only representation of current equine transport**.
- The information included is for **guidance purposes only**. The judgement of the person responsible for the animal (e.g. transporter, keeper, attendant), along with veterinary advice where necessary, should be used to decide whether Equidae are fit for the intended journey.
- The guidelines are designed to complement existing legislation and **DO NOT replace legal obligations**. **This is not a legal document and is not legally binding**. If a conflict occurs, the guidelines **should not be used as evidence**.
- References made to legislation **do not account for any modifications** to legal text or to Member States' specific or additional requirements that may occur after publication.
- The **authors cannot be held responsible for any claim, damage or loss** which may occur as a result of different interpretations of the information in these guidelines.
- This document **cannot be used to predict the final condition of Equidae transported to a slaughterhouse**. It is the responsibility of the Official Veterinarian in charge of ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection to decide whether an animal is fit for human consumption.
- It is **recommended that transporters and attendants read this document as part of their training**, to help fulfil their obligations under *Regulation (EC) 1/2005*.



**The guidelines must not be used to make a diagnosis - only a veterinarian is qualified to do this.**

<sup>1</sup> Stated in *Regulation (EC) 1/2005* and relating to *Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes*.

<sup>2</sup> Please visit: [www.ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/index_en.htm) for more information.

# DEFINITIONS

## The following terms are used in the guidelines:

- 1. Equidae:** Horses, ponies, donkeys and their hybrids, whether domesticated or feral.
- 2. Physiological weakness:** Any weakness of an animal which is not caused by injury or disease. Specific conditions, such as fatigue, late pregnancy and recent foaling, may lead to physiological weakness not compatible with transport.
- 3. Pathological process:** Any condition caused by injury, disease or post-surgical complications.
- 4. Economic activity in relation to Regulation (EC) 1/2005:** Transport of animals undertaken as part of a business or commercial activity, to directly or indirectly achieve financial gain for any person or company involved with the transport (*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Chapter I, Article I, Paragraph 5*). §
- 5. Registered Equidae:** Animals registered in studbooks established in accordance with *Council Directive 90/427/EEC*, or with international organisations managing competitions (refer to *Council Directive 2009/156/EC Chapter 1, Article 2 (c)*). Possession of an equine passport **does not** mean that an animal is registered. §



If a registered horse is transported to slaughter it will be categorised as ‘Equidae for slaughter’ and will have to comply with all the relevant parts of *Regulation (EC) 1/2005*. §

- 6. Equidae for slaughter:** Animals intended to be transported, either directly or after transit through a market or an approved marshalling centre, to a slaughterhouse for slaughter (*Directive 2009/156/EC*). §
- 7. Unbroken Equidae:** Animals that “cannot be tied or led by a halter without causing avoidable excitement, pain or suffering” (*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Article 2, (y)*). §
- 8. Equine passport:** A mandatory identification document for Equidae within the EU (*Regulation (EC) 2015/262*); providing a means of recording treatment with veterinary medicines which may render an animal unsuitable for human consumption. §
- 9. Biosecurity:** Preventative measures designed to reduce the risk of introducing, spreading or transmitting infectious disease.

Definitions have been included to aid the reader’s understanding of the guidelines; these have no legal basis unless stipulated, and are based on the Stakeholder Platform’s interpretation.

# HEALTH CHECKLIST

Signs that an animal is healthy and fit for transport:

- Attentive, alert and responsive** to its environment
- Eyes bright** and clear; **ears mobile**
- Weight distributed evenly** on all four legs when standing and moving
- No signs of injury**, pain, inflammation, swelling or abnormal discharge
- Breathing normally** (refer to page 46)
- Good body condition/weight** (refer to page 31 and 32)
- Shiny coat** and supple skin
- Normal appetite** and water consumption
- Normal faeces and urine** in terms of frequency, consistency and colour
- Horses and donkeys may exhibit different signs** of good or poor health





# TRANSPORT CHECKLIST

To maintain good health and welfare during transport:

- Food and water** should be provided prior to transport, during regular rest breaks and upon arrival at destination
- The animal should be **rested** before the journey, given **rest stops** during travel and have **time to recover** on arrival at the destination
- It should be possible to **access the animal** to inspect and care for it
- Journeys should be kept as **short as possible**<sup>1</sup>
- The animals should be handled **calmly and quietly**
- The animal should be able to **raise and lower its head** to clear its airways and maintain balance; the lead rope or tether should not be tied too short
- Each animal should be provided with **sufficient space** to maintain its balance in order to reduce the risk of injury and stress
- The vehicle should be **well-ventilated** to help prevent respiratory problems or overheating
- The animal **should not be transported** in very high or very low temperatures, or high humidity, as there is a risk of the animal overheating or becoming excessively cold
- The vehicle's **loading ramp** should not be steeper than an angle of 20 degrees (36.4% to the horizontal), and a means to aid the animal in climbing up or going down the ramp should be present (e.g. foot battens)
- Anti-slip flooring** (e.g. rubber matting) should be present within the vehicle and on the ramp
- Side barriers** should be used on the ramp to prevent falls
- The **ceiling height** should be at least 75cm above the wither to avoid injury
- The vehicle should be driven **slowly and carefully** to provide a comfortable journey for the animal and reduce the risk of injury and fatigue.



<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) 1/2005 states: "For reasons of animal welfare the transport of animals over long journeys...should be limited as far as possible."

# HOW TO USE THE GUIDELINES

The guidelines are divided into five parts:

**Part I** European Union legislation

**Part II** Animal conditions prohibiting transport

**Part III** Animal conditions requiring further assessment before transport

**Part IV** Course of action: what to do if an animal is unfit for transport or requires further assessment

**Part V** Annexes

For quick reference the following symbols have been used, together with colour-coding, to help distinguish the key points and legal requirements.



**Fit for transport**



**Further assessment required to establish whether the animal is fit for transport or not**



**Unfit - do not transport**



**Warning - take note**



**Legislation**



**Non-legislative code**

## EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION



These guidelines illustrate the basic provisions of *Regulation (EC) 1/2005*, together with associated legislation and codes.

**It is also important to refer to national rules applying within individual EU Member States.**

# SCOPE OF REGULATION (EC) 1/2005



“This regulation shall apply to the transport of live vertebrate animals carried out within the Community, including the specific checks to be carried out by officials on consignments entering or leaving the customs territory of the Community.”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Article 1, Paragraph 1*

“This Regulation shall not apply to the transport of animals which does not take place in connection with an economic activity and to the transport of animals directly to or from veterinary practices or clinics, under the advice of a veterinarian.”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Chapter I, Article 1, Paragraph 5*

Although *Regulation (EC) 1/2005* applies only to animals transported for economic purposes, its contents will assist anyone transporting Equidae to maintain the animals' fitness. It is recommended that all those involved in moving Equidae are aware of the requirements outlined in this section. The transport of unfit Equidae may be considered mistreatment under some EU Member States' national animal welfare legislation, irrespective of whether the journey is for economic purposes or not.

## SUMMARY OF EU LEGISLATION *(refer to page 7 for definitions)*



### 1. General conditions for the transport of animals

“No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them.

In addition, the following conditions shall be complied with:(...)

(b) the animals are fit for the journey;”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Article 3, Paragraph (b)*

“No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter I, Paragraph 1*

*Summary of legislative text:*

Keepers of animals at the place of departure, transfer or destination, and operators of assembly centres, shall ensure that the technical rules set out in Chapters I and III, Section 1, of Annex I in respect of the animals being transported, are met.

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Article 8, and Article 9*



### 2. Transport of sick, injured or weak animals

“Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

a) they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;

b) they present a severe open wound, or prolapse”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter I, Paragraph 2 (a, b)*



### 3. Transport of Equidae in advanced pregnancy or who have recently foaled

Animals shall not be considered fit for transport if “they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter I, Paragraph 2(c)*



**Note: An exception exists for registered Equidae, refer to point 5 below.**

#### **Additional information:**

“Heavily pregnant animals should not be carried except under exceptional circumstances.

Pregnant animals should not be accepted when the last service or exposure to a male prior to departure has exceeded the following time given here for guidance only: maximum number of days since the last service - horses - 300.”

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code – Transport of Animals by Air, Article 7.4.2



### 4. Transport of new-born Equidae

Animals shall not be considered fit for transport if “they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed.”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter I, Paragraph 2(d)*

“Except if accompanied by their mother, long journeys are only permitted for domestic Equidae (...) if: - domestic Equidae are older than four months, with the exception of registered Equidae”.

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter VI, Paragraph 1.9*



**Note: An exception exists for registered Equidae, refer to point 5 below.**



### 5. Registered Equidae

“Requirements of paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) [see points 3 and 4 above] do not apply for registered Equidae if the purpose of the journeys is to improve the health and welfare conditions of birth, or for newly born foals with their registered mares, provided that in both cases the animals are permanently accompanied by an attendant, dedicated to them during the journey.”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter I, Paragraph 7*



### 6. Possible transport when certain conditions are met

“However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are:

(a) slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering; in cases of doubt, veterinary advice shall be sought;

(b) transported for the purposes of Council Directive 86/609/EEC (replaced by Directive 2010/63/EU) if the illness or injury is part of a research programme;

(c) transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis.

However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned;

(d) animals that have been submitted to veterinary procedures in relation to farming practices (...), provided that wounds have completely healed.”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter I, Paragraph 3*



### 7. Unbroken Equidae

“Unbroken Equidae shall not be transported in groups of more than four individuals.”

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter III, Paragraph 2.4*

“Unbroken horses shall not be transported on long journeys.”<sup>1</sup>

*Regulation (EC) 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter VI, Paragraph 1.9*



### 8. Biosecurity and food safety

#### **Summary of legislative text:**

Equidae with a disease or condition that may be transmitted to animals or humans through handling or eating their meat, and animals showing clinical signs of systemic disease or emaciation, must not be slaughtered for human consumption. These Equidae must be killed separately under conditions where other animals or carcasses cannot be contaminated; they should be declared unfit for human consumption.

*Regulation (EC) 854/2004<sup>2</sup> Annex I, Section II, Chapter III, Paragraph 4*



**Note: If an animal is declared unfit for human consumption this will lead to a loss of revenue; help to avoid this by ensuring Equidae are fit before transporting them.**

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

For details of other relevant legislation, refer to Annex III, page 47 – Major Regulatory References.

For information concerning third countries and international transportation please refer to:

*OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, chapters 7.2 Transport of Animals by Sea, 7.3 Transport of Animals by Land and 7.4 Transport of Animals by Air.*

<sup>1</sup> Any journey over eight hours.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) 854/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

## ANIMAL CONDITIONS PROHIBITING TRANSPORT



**The conditions presented in these guidelines do not reflect the usual state of Equidae in the EU.**

The list of signs for each condition is not exhaustive.  
Refer to Annex I, pages 45-46 for a summary of these conditions.

**If there is any doubt seek veterinary assistance.**

# UNABLE TO STAND, UNABLE TO MAINTAIN BALANCE OR SEVERE LAMENESS (See also Part III, pages 24–25: Difficulty moving and/or lameness)

Lameness is an abnormality in the way that an animal moves, reducing its ability to use one or more of its legs in a normal manner.



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✘ Stumbling, staggering or falling
- ✘ Inability to:
  - ✘ Stand or remain standing
  - ✘ Maintain balance
  - ✘ Move without signs of pain (see pages 26-27)
  - ✘ Bear any weight on one of its legs

### Do not transport

Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action



✘ Unable to bear weight on fore leg.



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✔ Is in good general health
- ✔ Can bear weight equally on all legs
- ✔ Shows no signs of pain



✔ Healthy animal bearing weight equally on all four legs.



# SEVERE OPEN WOUNDS

(See also Part III, page 28: Wounds)

Depending on their size, depth or location, open wounds may represent a serious condition.



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✘ An open wound exposing a body cavity or structure, such as the chest, abdomen or skull
- ✘ Damage to skin or mucous membranes that exposes muscle, deeper tissues or bone
- ✘ An infected wound, possibly accompanied by discharge, pus or maggots
- ✘ A large healing wound (including surgical wounds) that has reopened
- ✘ Pain (refer to pages 26–27)
- ✘ Difficulty moving

### Do not transport

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



✘ *Open wound exposing underlying muscle.*



✘ *Wounds involving a joint need careful attention as they can be serious even if they appear minor.*



It is important to consider whether wounds may:

- Become infected
- Bleed, possibly leading to severe blood loss and even death
- Be made worse by transport or contact with the structure of the vehicle.

# PROFUSE AND/OR CONTINUOUS BLEEDING (SEVERE HAEMORRHAGE)



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✘ Constant bleeding; a lot of blood visible on and/or around the animal
- ✘ Blood squirting out under pressure or pulsating from the wound, indicating damage to an artery; this is an **emergency**

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



✘ A lot of blood visible on and around the horse.



## Further assessment required

If the animal:

- ? Is bleeding from the nostrils. Most nose bleeds stop without intervention; however, they can indicate a more serious condition, which may prove fatal.

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? Nose bleeds require further assessment before considering transport.



**Severe blood loss can lead to death – seek urgent veterinary assistance.**

**Profuse and/or continuous bleeding indicates severe injury or disease.**

**If a lot of blood is visible but bleeding has stopped, the animal may still be at risk.**

# PROLAPSE (ORGAN PROTRUDING FROM THE BODY)

A condition in which an internal organ or tissue protrudes through a natural opening. Prolapses of the uterus, vagina or rectum may be found in Equidae.



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✘ A red or pink mass hanging from the vulva or anus
- ✘ Pain and straining
- ✘ Bleeding from the vulva or anus

Do not transport

Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action



✘ A red mass hanging out of the vulva or anus.

# LATE PREGNANCY OR RECENTLY FOALED



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✘ Wax-like beads or droplets of milk on the tips of the teats (note: this does not always occur)
- ✘ Relaxation of the muscles in the hindquarters and tail
- ✘ A visible placenta, indicating imminent or recent birth, or abortion

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



✘ Wax-like beads or droplets of milk on the tips of the teats.



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? Enlarged abdomen (this can also be a sign related to other conditions)
- ? Full or enlarged udder; swelling from the udder along the under-belly (note: this does not always occur before birth)

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? Enlarged abdomen suggesting the mare is in an advanced state of pregnancy.



**Important points to consider:**

- The foaling date should be obtained before undertaking transport
- The gestation period of Equidae is around 340 days (11 months)
- Transport-related stress may increase the risk of abortion or complications
- During late pregnancy and lactation mares and jennies are at risk from hyperlipaemia<sup>1</sup> (which can be life threatening) and mastitis<sup>2</sup>.



Pregnant females who are 90% (approximately 300 days) or more through their gestation period, and females who have given birth in the previous week, **must not be transported**, with the exception of registered Equidae (refer to page 12, points 3 and 5)- (Regulation (EC) 1/2005).

Note: The whole transport operation must be completed before reaching 90% of the gestation period.

<sup>1</sup> An animal suffering from hyperlipaemia may show any of the following signs: dullness, lethargy, poor appetite/refusal to eat, weakness, collapse, loss of coordination, fitting, head pressing, rapid breathing, and swelling along the underside of the belly.

<sup>2</sup> An animal suffering from mastitis may show any of the following signs: enlarged udder, pain, reluctance to move, lameness, depression, high fever, reluctance to let foal suckle, pus from the udder.

# NEW-BORN FOALS



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✘ Moist navel
- ✘ Fluid dripping from the end of the navel
- ✘ Redness and swelling of the navel

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



- ✘ *Moist navel dripping fluid. Foals should not be transported until their navel has healed.*



## Further assessment required

If there is:

- ? Any uncertainty about a foal's age or fitness for transport

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



- ? *If there is any doubt about whether an animal is old enough to be transported, veterinary advice should be sought.*



Long journeys (over eight hours) are only permitted for domestic Equidae older than four months of age, unless they are accompanied by their mother or are registered Equidae (Regulation (EC) 1/2005).

## **Equidae presenting any of the conditions listed in Part II MUST NOT BE TRANSPORTED**

(unless to a veterinary clinic/practice for treatment)



If an animal has suffered an accident it must be treated **immediately**.

If treatment is not possible or is unsuccessful, the animal may be humanely euthanized or slaughtered on the spot.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, Annex III, Paragraph 1.11: "Animals which are unable to walk shall not be dragged to the place of slaughter, but shall be killed where they lie"; Paragraph 7: "Killing and related operations shall only be carried out by persons with the appropriate level of competence".

# ANIMAL CONDITIONS REQUIRING FURTHER ASSESSMENT BEFORE TRANSPORT



Refer to Annex I, pages 45-46 for a summary of these conditions.  
**If there is any doubt seek veterinary assistance.**

**In order to make the right decision the following points should be considered:**

- The general condition of the animal
- The duration of the journey
- The animal's previous transport experience
- The environment within the vehicle (e.g. temperature and humidity, loading density)
- Whether the condition of the animal will deteriorate during the journey, and if transport will aggravate existing health conditions or a minor injury
- If the animal is intended for slaughter, the risk of rejection by the inspection services at the slaughterhouse.

# DIFFICULTY MOVING AND/OR LAMENESS

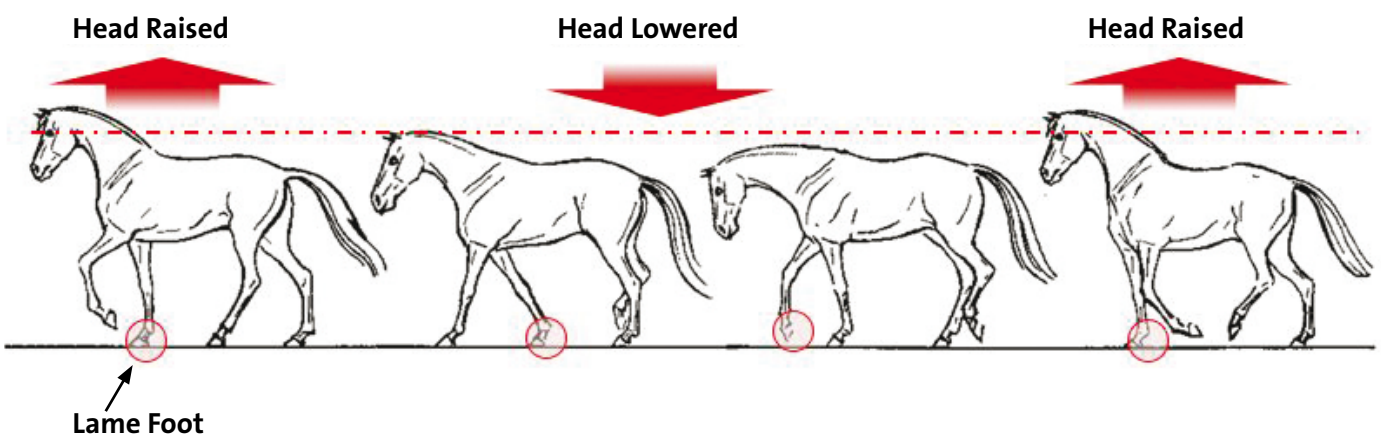
(See also **Part II**, page 15: Unable to stand, unable to maintain balance, or severe lameness)

## HOW TO ASSESS LAMENESS

1. If possible, make the assessment in a **quiet, safe place**.
2. Observe the animal's **posture** whilst it stands at rest.

**If the animal requires assistance to stand up, or is unable to bear any weight on one leg, it is unfit for transport - turn to page 43 and follow the course of action.**

3. Stand at a safe distance and observe the animal as it is **walked on a hard even surface**:
  - a. Observe the animal from the **front, side and rear**.
  - b. Ensure the rope between the handler and the animal's halter/headcollar is slack to allow the animal's **head to move freely**.
  - c. Watch the animal **walk away** for about 10 metres in a straight line, make a **wide turn** and **walk back**.
4. The animal should have a **clear and even four-time hoof beat** when walking. Any of the following indicate lameness:
  - a. **Uneven** hoof beats.
  - b. **Hobbling or limping**; difficulty bearing weight equally on all legs.
  - c. **Changing head position** during movement: the head raises when the lame foreleg hits the ground (see diagram below).
  - d. Taking a **shorter stride** with one hind foot in comparison to the other.
  - e. Assessment of hind leg lameness can be more difficult to perform. Observe if the animal **raises its pelvis** as one hind leg hits the floor; this is the lame leg.



**Foreleg lameness:** the animal lands more heavily onto the sound foreleg and its head appears to nod lower; it then raises its head when weight is placed on the lame leg.





## Unfit for transport

**If the animal shows any of the following signs:**

- ✘ Pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✘ Stumbling, staggering or falling
- ✘ Severe lameness
- ✘ Inability to:
  - ✘ Stand
  - ✘ Maintain balance
  - ✘ Bear weight on all four legs
  - ✘ Move without difficulty



✘ *Not weight-bearing on left hind leg. Unfit for transport.*

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

**If the animal shows any of the following signs:**

- ? Reluctance to stand
- ? Reluctance to move
- ? Frequently shifting weight between legs
- ? Standing with an abnormal posture
- ? Imperfect mobility or mild lameness



? *Abnormal posture.*

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Fit for transport

**If the animal:**

- ✔ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✔ Is able and willing to stand
- ✔ Can maintain balance
- ✔ Bears weight equally and fully on all four legs
- ✔ Has good mobility and moves freely without signs of lameness.

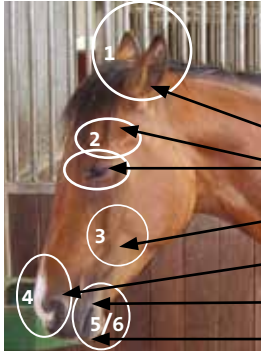


✔ *Standing equally on all four legs; no signs of pain. Fit for transport.*

# PAIN: FACIAL SIGNS

Equidae may show only subtle signs of pain, regardless of how severe the condition is; therefore, close attention should be paid to its evaluation.

## HOW TO ASSESS PAIN USING THE HORSE GRIMACE SCALE



The Horse Grimace Scale is a method to evaluate changes in a horse's facial expression due to pain.

Visually inspect the horse's face, examining the:

1. Ears
2. Eyes – above and around
3. Chewing muscles
4. Nostrils
5. Mouth
6. Chin



### Further assessment required

#### Category 1 – Signs of pain evident:

1. **Ears:** Held stiffly backwards, not moving
2. **Eyes:** Tightening of the area around the eye, tension above the eye area
3. **Chewing muscles:** Prominent strained chewing muscles
4. **Nostrils:** Clearly strained, with a flattening of the profile
5. **Mouth:** Increased tension above the mouth
6. **Chin:** Pronounced

Seek veterinary advice

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? Facial signs of pain.



### Fit for transport

#### Category 2 – No signs of pain:

1. **Ears:** Held forward and moving
2. **Eyes:** Vigilant/attentive and open
3. **Chewing muscles:** No tension in facial muscles
4. **Nostrils:** Relaxed and slightly dilated/ open
5. **Mouth:** Relaxed
6. **Chin:** Relaxed



✓ No signs of pain. Fit for transport

Based on: **Dalla Costa E., Minero M., Lebelt D., Stucke D., Leach M.C.** (2014) Development of the Horse Grimace Scale (HGS) as a pain assessment tool in horses undergoing routine castration. *PLOS ONE* 9, 3, e92281.

Refer to: [www.animalwelfarehub.com/Applications/Details/9](http://www.animalwelfarehub.com/Applications/Details/9)

# PAIN: OTHER BODILY INDICATORS



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

### Behavioural signs

- ✘ Repeated:
  - ✘ Rolling, biting and/or kicking the abdomen
  - ✘ Looking at abdomen or hindquarters
- ✘ Unresponsive to surroundings

### Physical signs

- ✘ Inability to stand or difficulty standing
- ✘ Obvious signs of distress



- ✘ *Horse with laminitis: Unresponsive to surroundings, abnormal posture and facial signs of pain. Unfit for transport.*

### Do not transport

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

### Behavioural signs

- ? Pacing and/or restlessness
- ? Lying down for prolonged periods
- ? Irritability
- ? Weight shifting
- ? Repeated stretching

### Physical signs

- ? Profuse sweating
- ? Abnormal posture, stance or weight distribution
- ? Rapid breathing

### Seek veterinary advice

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**

# WOUNDS (INCLUDING SURGICAL)

(See also **Part II**, page 16: Severe open wounds)



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Pain (refer to pages 26 – 27)
- ✗ A large, deep and/or infected wound (refer to page 16)
- ✗ A wound involving a joint

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? Several wounds or lesions
- ? A wound that may reopen
- ? A wound that may cause pain or blood loss during transport

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? *Leg wound: Further assessment required to establish whether transport is likely to make the wound worse.*



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26-27)
- ✓ Has a small and superficial wound that does not involve a joint



✓ *Small superficial wounds. Fit for transport.*



To make the right decision you must assess:

- The size, depth and location of the wound
- The number of wounds or lesions
- The potential of the wound to cause pain or blood loss during transport.

# DEHYDRATION



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Unresponsive to surroundings
- ✗ Rapid, shallow breathing



Dehydrated animals are not fit for transport



✗ Unresponsive to surroundings.  
Unfit for transport

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

### Behavioural signs

- ? Drinking excessively or for extended periods of time
- ? Aggression or threatening behaviour when water is present

### Physical signs

- ? Dark-coloured or thick urine, which may have a strong smell
- ? Abnormal faeces: loose or very hard; absent or infrequently passed faeces

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Is alert, attentive and responsive to its environment.



Refer to:

*Practical Guidelines on the Watering of Equine Animals Transported by Road*  
[www.worldhorsewelfare.org/guidance](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/guidance)



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Indifference to surroundings (unresponsive, 'shut-down', depressed, persistently refusing to eat and/or drink)
- ✗ Inability to stand and/or move
- ✗ Stumbling and/or loss of balance when moving
- ✗ Collapse



✗ Horse unable to remain standing.

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? Lethargy
- ? Lying down for long periods
- ? Reluctance to stand
- ? Leaning or resting head on objects or surfaces



? Resting head on trough.

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Is alert, attentive and responsive to its environment
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)



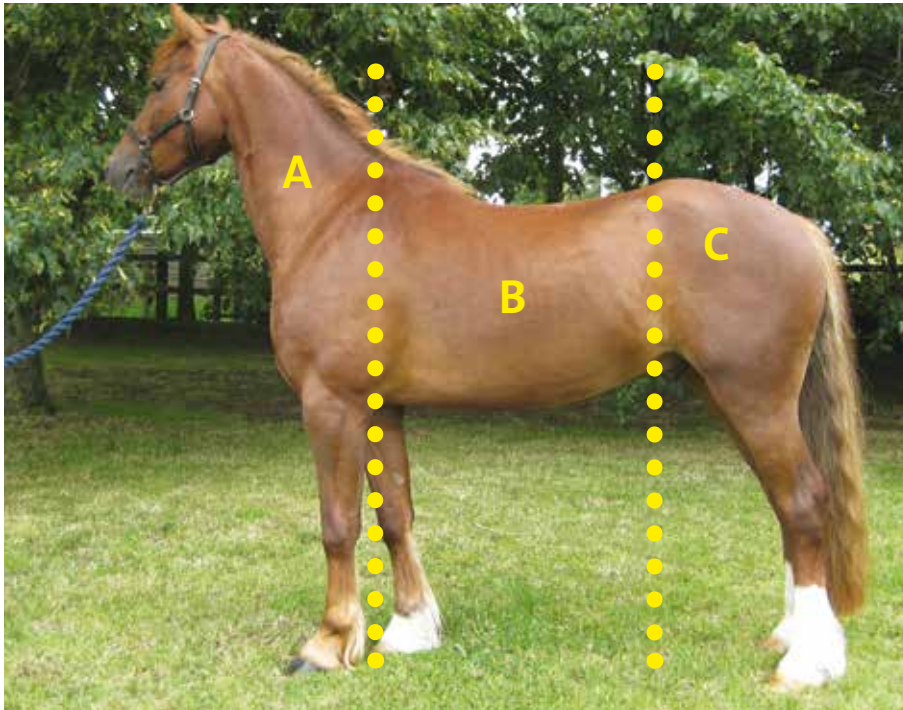
✓ Animals alert and interested in surroundings. Fit for transport.



To enable adequate rest, including deep sleep, Equidae should have the opportunity to lie down within a 24 hour period.

# ABNORMAL WEIGHT

## HOW TO ASSESS BODY CONDITION



- Standing at a safe distance, visually assess the animal from the side and from the rear.
- If safe, use the fingertips to feel the covering of fat on the animal's neck (A), middle (B) and hind quarters (C), particularly if the coat is long, as this may hide the true condition.
- Score each area from 0 to 5 based on the descriptions on page 32 (horses) or 33 (donkeys).
- Take the average of these three scores and use this as the final score.

**1 – Poor**

**2 – Moderate**

**3 – Good**

**4 – Fat**

**5 – Very fat (obese)**



**Very fat or very thin animals are at risk of, or may suffer from, health problems.**

**Very thin Equidae may be weak and therefore at an increased risk of injury during transport.**

**Very fat animals may have difficulty controlling their body temperature and will have increased stress on their joints and heart. They are at increased risk of metabolic disorders, particularly when exposed to stressful situations, such as transportation, or sudden changes in diet and/or access to food. Some of these metabolic disorders are life-threatening if not treated promptly.**

Based on: **Carroll, C. L. and Huntington, P. J.** (1988) Body condition scoring and weight estimation of horses. *Equine Veterinary Journal* 20(1), 41–45. With permission from NEWC 2003, The Donkey Sanctuary and World Horse Welfare.

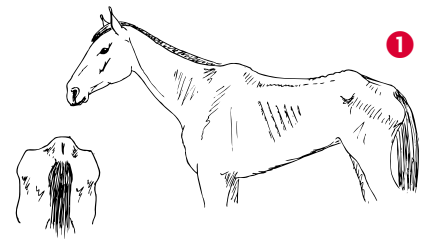
# ABNORMAL WEIGHT: HORSES



## Unfit for transport

### Score 1 – Poor:

- ✗ Ewe neck
- ✗ Ribs clearly visible
- ✗ Backbone prominent
- ✗ Pelvis prominent, rump sunken
- ✗ Cavity under tail



**Do not transport unless under veterinary advice for diagnosis and treatment**  
**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Fit for transport

### Score 2 – Moderate:

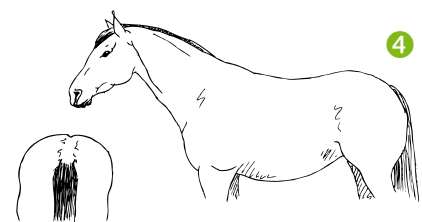
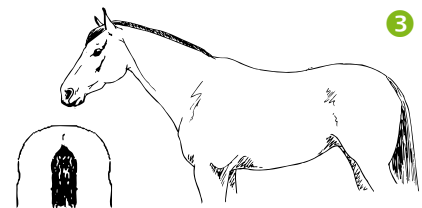
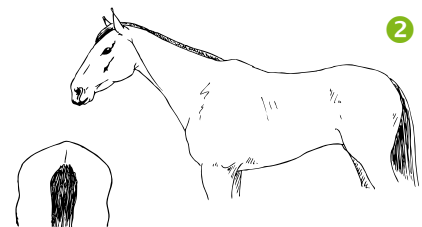
- ✓ Neck narrow but firm
- ✓ Ribs just visible, backbone covered (can be felt but not seen)
- ✓ Rump flat either side of spine, slight cavity under tail

### Score 3 – Good:

- ✓ Firm neck with no crest (except stallions)
- ✓ Ribs just covered (felt with light pressure)
- ✓ Backbone well covered but can be felt, no gutter
- ✓ Hindquarters rounded, no gutter, pelvis easily felt

### Score 4 – Fat:

- ✓ Slight crest, top of neck wide and spongy
- ✓ Ribs and pelvis well covered (felt with firm pressure)
- ✓ Gutter along spine with fat either side



## Further assessment required

### Score 5 – Very fat:

- ? Marked crest, top of neck very wide and firm, creases of fat
- ? Ribs and pelvis buried (cannot be felt)
- ? Back broad and flat, deep gutter along spine to tail head with fat either side



**Seek veterinary advice. Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



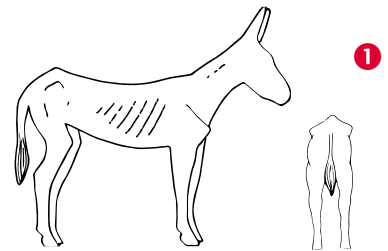
# ABNORMAL WEIGHT: DONKEYS



## Unfit for transport

### Score 1 – Poor:

- ✗ Bones easily felt, ribs and hip bones clearly visible
- ✗ Thin neck meets shoulder abruptly
- ✗ Angular shoulder, backbone prominent
- ✗ Abdomen tucked up
- ✗ Little muscle over hindquarters, cavity under tail



**Do not transport unless under veterinary advice for diagnosis and treatment**  
**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Fit for transport

### Score 2 – Moderate:

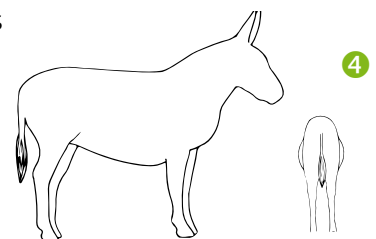
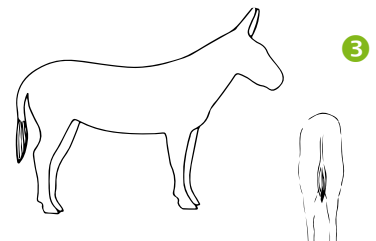
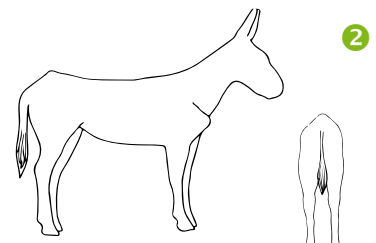
- ✓ Poor muscle development
- ✓ Ribs, backbone and pelvis not prominent but felt with ease
- ✓ Slight step where neck meets shoulders

### Score 3 – Good:

- ✓ Bones felt under light cover of muscle/fat
- ✓ Neck flows smoothly into rounded shoulder
- ✓ Good cover over withers, back and ribs
- ✓ Good muscle development either side of midline and over hindquarters

### Score 4 – Fat:

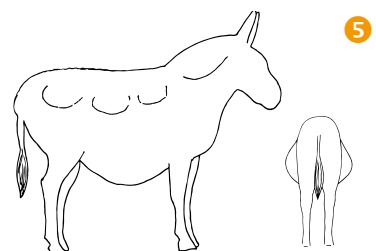
- ✓ Bones felt with firm pressure
- ✓ Thick neck, large belly and rounded hindquarters
- ✓ Broad withers, slight crease along midline



## Further assessment required

### Score 5 – Very fat:

- ? Neck thick, crest bulging with fat, may fall to one side
- ? Shoulder rounded, with bulging fat
- ? Pendulous abdomen and fat deposits over ribs
- ? Back broad, spine buried with deep gutter to tail head and fat on either side



**Seek veterinary advice. Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✗ Fitting; paralysis or collapse
- ✗ High temperature (above 38.5°C / 101.3°F)

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? Swellings, lumps or abscesses
- ? Weakness; difficulty moving; stiffness; lack of coordination
- ? Frequent coughing
- ? Discharge from: nose, eyes, rectum, vulva or penis
- ? Profuse sweating and/or shivering
- ? Sensitivity to light, touch or noise
- ? Abnormal faeces: diarrhoea, soft, hard, absent or bloody



? *Thick yellow nasal discharge.*

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**

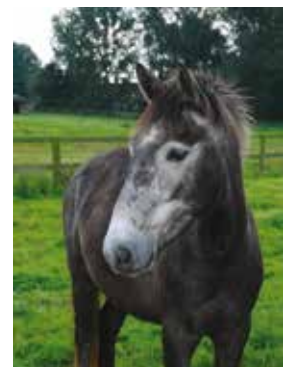


## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Is alert, attentive and responsive to its environment
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)

✓ *Healthy animal showing no signs of disease. Fit for transport.*



**Biosecurity measures should be put in place to reduce the risk of disease spreading. Refer to page 51 for information on notifiable diseases.**

# COLIC (ABDOMINAL PAIN)



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Repeated:
  - ✗ Rolling or lying down and getting up
  - ✗ Looking at abdomen or hindquarters
  - ✗ Biting or kicking at the abdomen
- ✗ Loss of appetite or refusal to eat
- ✗ Rapid breathing, flaring of the nostrils
- ✗ Pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



✗ Repeated looking at the abdomen and hindquarters. Unfit for transport.



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? Pawing at the ground, pacing and/or restlessness
- ? Sweating
- ? Groaning or grunting
- ? Stretching
- ? Frequent attempts to urinate
- ? Reduced or absent faeces
- ? Abnormal posture or head and neck position (e.g. rotated to one side)

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? Pawing and restlessness.



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26-27)



**Colic can lead to death; seek urgent veterinary advice.**

# SKIN PROBLEMS

Skin problems range from relatively minor conditions that have little impact on the horse to severe cases that cause the horse significant distress or indicate serious infectious disease. If in any doubt, seek veterinary advice.



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? A skin problem that could be:
  - ? Transmitted to other animals or to humans (e.g. ringworm)
  - ? Made worse by transport or contact with the structure of the vehicle (e.g. tumour)

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



- ? Further assessment required to establish whether the condition is contagious or may be aggravated by transport.



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✓ Has a skin problem that cannot be transmitted to other animals or to humans



If infectious disease is suspected, biosecurity measures should be implemented to prevent spread.

# SWELLING, INFLAMMATION AND ABSCESSES

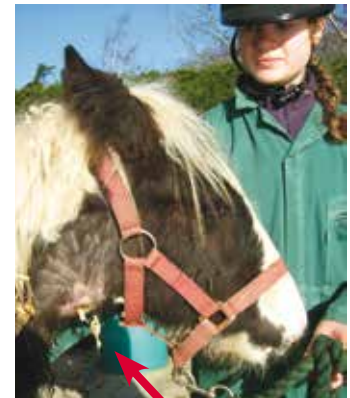
## ✘ Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✘ A significant amount of swelling, heat and/or redness
- ✘ Pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✘ A ruptured abscess releasing pus (refer to page 33)
- ✘ Inability to bear weight on all four legs
- ✘ Inability to move or difficulty moving
- ✘ Severe lameness (refer to page 25)

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



- ✘ Ruptured abscess on the neck typical of strangles, which is a highly infectious disease. Unfit for transport.

## ? Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? A small amount of swelling or heat, but no other signs
- ? An abscess that has not ruptured
- ? Abnormal posture or reluctance to move
- ? Mild lameness (refer to page 25).

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



- ? Swelling to the fore leg.

## ✔ Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✔ Is in good general health
- ✔ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✔ Bears weight equally on all four legs
- ✔ Moves freely without signs of lameness (refer to page 25).



To make the right decision you must assess which part of the animal's body is affected.

Swellings, inflammation or abscesses could be signs of infectious disease, some of which can prove fatal. If there is any doubt, seek veterinary advice and implement biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of spreading disease to other animals.

# DEFORMITY

A deformity is a part of the body that is an abnormal shape.



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Pain (refer to pages 26-27)
- ✗ Reluctance to move or difficulty moving
- ✗ Severe lameness (refer to page 25)

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



✗ Severely overgrown hooves. Unfit for transport.



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? Mild lameness (refer to page 25)
- ? A risk of falling or losing balance during transport

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? Deformed fore limbs that may affect the animals' ability to balance during transport.



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26-27)
- ✓ Moves freely without signs of lameness (refer to page 25)
- ✓ Will not become fatigued during transport as a result of the deformity



✓ Healthy animal showing no signs of disease or pain. Fit for transport.

# HERNIA

A hernia forms when an internal part of the body (organ or other tissue) pushes through an opening in the wall of the cavity where it is normally contained, creating a bulge or swelling. Hernias commonly affect the abdominal region.



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Pain (refer to pages 26 - 27)
- ✗ Poor general health
- ✗ Colic signs (refer to page 34); this requires **immediate veterinary intervention**

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? A large hernia with no lesions
- ? Evidence of lesions or infection on the overlying skin
- ? A hernia that may be made worse by contact with the internal surfaces of the vehicle

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? A large hernia with no lesions.



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26-27)
- ✓ Has a small hernia with no signs of lesions



**Growing hernias should be monitored carefully.**

# VISUALLY IMPAIRED EQUIDAE



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Pain (refer to pages 26-27)
- ✗ Poor general health
- ✗ Total blindness in both eyes

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

### Physical signs

- ? Missing, abnormally shaped, or closed eye
- ? Discharge from the eye/s, which may be watery or yellow
- ? Any visible abnormalities of the eye (e.g. clouding)
- ? Material present on the front of the eye (e.g. blood, pus, lumps)

### Behavioural signs

- ? Nervousness, agitation or reluctance to move forward
- ? Apparent lack of coordination or clumsiness
- ? Tilted head
- ? Frequent rubbing of the eye

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



? Eye closed and showing signs of discharge.



## Fit for transport



Good general health, no signs of pain, and accustomed to transport. Fit to transport.

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26-27)
- ✓ Is accustomed to transport (no undue stress or suffering is caused), and has been assessed fit for transport by a veterinarian



To make the right decision you must assess the extent of the visual impairment and how this will affect the animal's ability to cope with transportation.

Visually impaired Equidae may become disorientated or stressed during transport, increasing the risk of injury.



# DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR



## Unfit for transport

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ✗ Behaviour such as:
  - ✗ Rearing or bucking
  - ✗ Kicking, biting or striking out
  - ✗ Repeated attempts to escape when tied or led

**Do not transport**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Further assessment required

If the animal shows any of the following signs:

- ? Abnormal behaviour or any behaviour that causes concern

**Seek veterinary advice**

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



## Fit for transport

If the animal:

- ✓ Is in good general health
- ✓ Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26-27)
- ✓ Is calm and does not present a hazard to humans, other animals or itself



✓ *Calm, quiet and in good general health. Fit for transport.*



**Dangerous behaviour presents a risk to the health and safety of humans, other Equidae and the animal itself.**

**Measures should be taken to reduce the likelihood of dangerous behaviour e.g. by separating horses.**

**If an animal becomes too dangerous to handle while transport is being undertaken, it could lead to a very serious situation which may require the involvement of the emergency services.**



## Further assessment required

Unbroken Equidae are at particular risk during transportation. Whether they can be transported will depend on their fitness (refer to relevant sections of these guidelines) and the length of the journey.

§ Under *Regulation 1/2005*, unbroken Equidae **must not be:**

- ✗ Transported on journeys over eight hours
- ✗ Tied during transport
- ✗ Travelled in groups of more than four individuals

### Seek veterinary advice

**Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action**



✓ *Unbroken Equidae in groups of four or less can be transported on journeys of up to eight hours.*

✗ *Unbroken Equidae must not be transported on journeys over eight hours.*

## COURSE OF ACTION

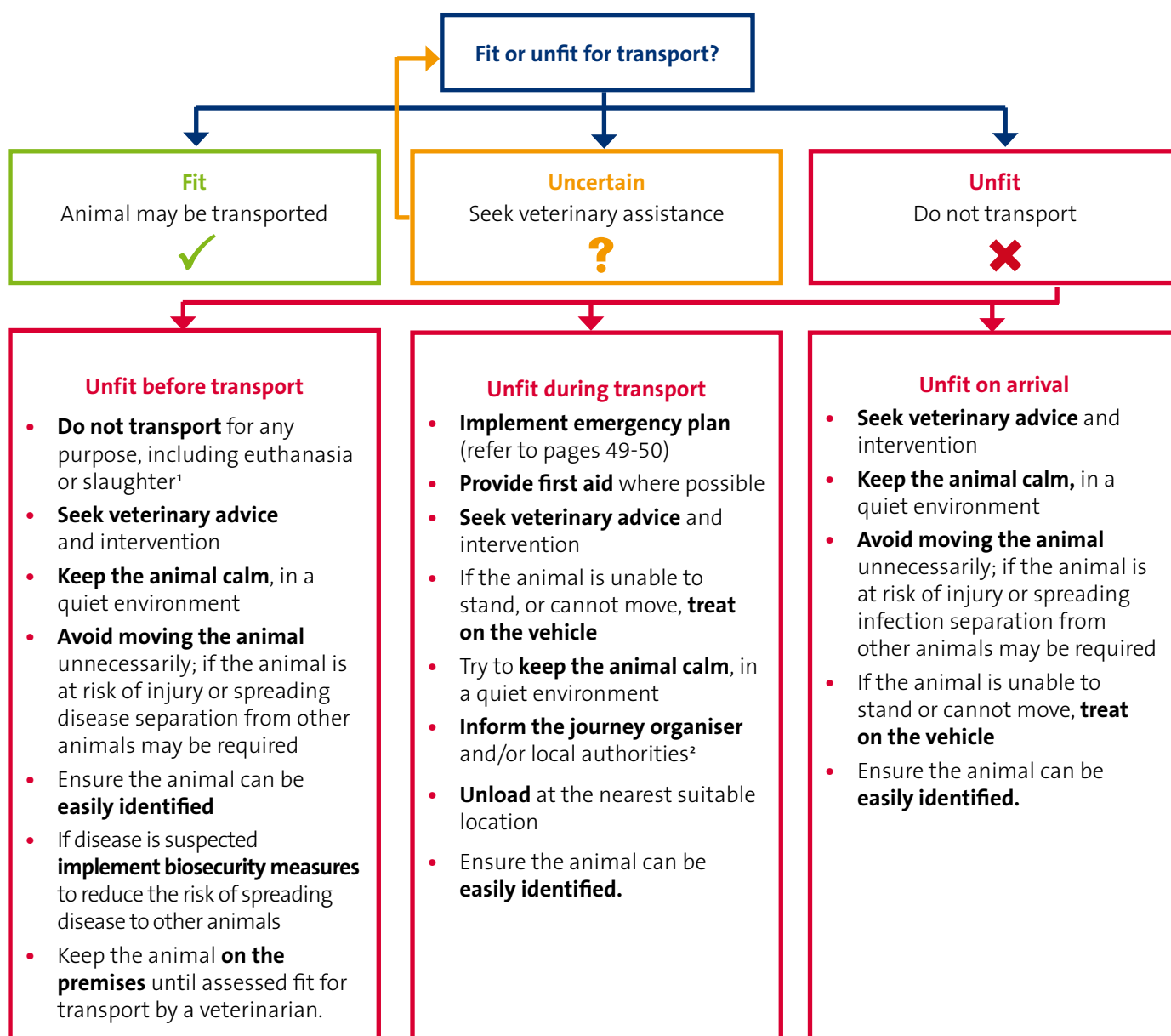


Whether the journey is short or long, **it is essential to have a plan of what to do in an emergency<sup>1</sup>, including contact details and where to get help if an animal becomes unfit to continue.**

**Part IV** provides guidance on what to do if an animal is unfit or requires further assessment, before, during or after transport.

<sup>1</sup> Under *Regulation (EC) No 1/2005* transporters are obliged to have a contingency plan in case of an emergency; this is a requirement for long journey transporter authorisation (*Article 11, 1(b) (iv)*).

# COURSE OF ACTION



## Note:

- If an animal is suspected to be infectious it must **not leave the premises**. If possible place in an isolation pen/stable separated as far as possible from other animals (10 metres recommended<sup>3</sup> minimum distance). Implement biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of disease spread.
- To minimise stress Equidae should have **sight of other Equidae**, even when housed separately.
- Suckling foals should be **kept with their mothers**, but separately from other animals (before, during and after transport).
- If the animal's condition is irreversible, is causing unnecessary suffering and further treatment will not remedy the situation, the veterinarian may decide that humane euthanasia/slaughter is required. This should be undertaken **on the premises by a suitably qualified person** with the appropriate level of competence, preferably out of sight of other animals to avoid unnecessary stress.
- Care and attention should be given to other Equidae that may be present on the same vehicle or premises to **avoid causing them unnecessary distress**.

<sup>1</sup> Unless under veterinary supervision to a veterinary practice/clinic for treatment/diagnosis (move only if no unnecessary suffering will be caused).

<sup>2</sup> Local authorities – those responsible for administering local services (linked to the government in the area/region).

<sup>3</sup> Recommended by the Stakeholder Platform.

<sup>4</sup> As defined by Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 – protection of animals at the time of killing.

## SUMMARY OF HEALTH CONDITIONS

### GENERAL HEALTH

| SIGNS REQUIRING FURTHER ASSESSMENT  | PAGE   |
|---|--|
| <b>Discharge:</b> from eyes, mouth, nose, rectum, vulva or penis  | 19, 34, 37, 40                               |
| <b>Abnormal breathing:</b> e.g. flared nostrils, rapid, shallow, laboured or noisy breathing (refer to page 46 for normal breathing rate) | 26-27, 30, 34, 35                            |
| <b>Frequent coughing</b>  | 34   |
| <b>Profuse sweating or shivering</b>  | 26-27, 31-33, 34, 35                         |
| <b>Abnormal posture or movement</b>   | 16, 24-25, 26-27, 29, 30, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40 |
| <b>Abnormal behaviour:</b> e.g. unresponsiveness, lethargy, repeated rolling, biting, kicking, aggression                                 | 16, 26-27, 29, 30, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41        |
| <b>Abnormal faeces:</b> diarrhoea, hard, absent, infrequent or mucus-covered  | 29, 34, 35                                   |
| <b>Abnormal urine:</b> thick, dark, passed in small amounts or absent   | 29, 34, 35                                   |
| <b>Appetite/thirst:</b> reluctance or refusal to eat and/or drink, or excessive drinking behaviour  | 26-27, 29, 30, 34, 35                        |

### HEALTH CONDITIONS

| CONDITIONS  | UNFIT FOR TRANSPORT   | FURTHER ASSESSMENT REQUIRED   | PAGE      |
|---|---|---|-----------|
| <b>Difficulty standing, moving, maintaining balance or lameness</b> | Stumbling, staggering or falling. Animal unable to: Stand or remain standing; maintain balance; move without difficulty; bear any weight on one of its legs. Severe lameness. | Reluctance to stand or move. Mild lameness. Weight shifting. Abnormal posture.  | 16, 24-25 |
| <b>Wounds</b>   | Exposed body cavity, muscle, deeper tissue or bone. Large reopened wound (including surgical wounds). Infected open wound. Difficulty moving. Pain                            | Multiple wounds. A wound that may reopen. Transport likely to aggravate the wound.  | 17, 28    |
| <b>Bleeding</b>   | Profuse and/or continuous bleeding. Blood squirting out under pressure.   | Nose bleed or other bleed that has stopped.   | 18        |
| <b>Prolapse</b>   | Red or pink mass protruding from the vulva or anus. Bleeding from vulva or anus.  |   | 19        |
| <b>Late pregnancy or recently foaled</b>                            | Mares beyond 90% (300 days) of gestation period, or foaled in the previous week. Wax-like beads or droplets of milk on tips of teats.   | Enlarged abdomen. Full or enlarged udder. <i>Registered Equidae only</i> - moved to improve health and welfare if accompanied by attendant. | 20        |
| <b>New-born foal</b>  | Navel not healed: moist; fluid dripping from end; redness and swelling.   | <i>Registered Equidae only</i> - as above.  | 21        |
| <b>Pain</b>   | Repeated rolling; kicking or looking at abdomen. Unresponsive to surroundings. Inability to stand or difficulty standing.   | Restlessness. Weight shifting. Profuse sweating. Facial tension.  | 26-27     |

## HEALTH CONDITIONS CONT.

| CONDITIONS   | UNFIT FOR TRANSPORT  | FURTHER ASSESSMENT REQUIRED  | PAGE  |
|--|--|--|-------|
| <b>Dehydration</b>   | Unresponsive to surroundings.  | Drinking excessively or for extended periods. Aggression when water is present. Dark, thick or strong-smelling urine. Abnormal faeces. | 29    |
| <b>Exhaustion</b>  | Unresponsive to surroundings. Inability to stand or move. Collapse.  | Lethargy, dull demeanour. Leaning or resting head. Reluctance to move or stand.  | 30    |
| <b>Abnormal weight (animals may be at risk of other health problems)</b> | Poor/emaciated: Ribs, hips, backbone prominent. Skin stretched tightly over bones.   | Very fat: Fat deposits on top of neck. Ribs and pelvis buried. Back broad and flat. Deep gutter along spine.                           | 31-33 |
| <b>Infectious disease</b>  | High temperature (above 38.5°C / 101.3°F). Fitting, paralysis or collapse.   | Swellings, lumps or abscesses. Repeated coughing. Discharge from any orifice. Sensitivity to light, touch or noise. Abnormal faeces.   | 34    |
| <b>Colic</b>   | Repeated rolling, lying down, looking at abdomen. Pain.  | Restlessness. Groaning. Profuse sweating. Abnormal posture or head and neck position.  | 35    |
| <b>Swelling, inflammation, or abscess</b>                                | Significant swelling, heat and/or redness. Pain. Ruptured abscess. Inability to move. Lameness.  | Abscess that has not ruptured. Mild lameness. Reluctance to move.  | 37    |
| <b>Deformity</b>   | Severe lameness. Reluctance to move or difficulty moving. Pain.  | Mild lameness. Risk of falling or losing balance during transport.   | 38    |
| <b>Hernia</b>  | Signs of pain, poor general health or colic.   | Large hernia. Evidence of lesions or infection. Transport likely to aggravate condition.   | 39    |
| <b>Visually impaired</b>   | Total blindness. Animal unaccustomed to transport.   | Discharge from eye/s. Abnormal eye/s. Material present on the eye. Nervousness, reluctance to move forward, clumsiness.                | 40    |
| <b>Dangerous behaviour</b>   | Behaviour that presents a risk, such as rearing, bucking, kicking, biting or striking out.   | If in any doubt about an animal's behaviour.   | 41    |
| <b>Unbroken Equidae</b>  | Journeys over eight hours for animals that cannot be led by a halter/headcollar without causing avoidable excitement, pain or suffering. | If in any doubt about whether an animal is broken or not.  | 42    |

## TEMPERATURE, PULSE AND RESPIRATION FOR HORSES AND DONKEYS

| <b>Vital signs for an adult horse at rest</b> |                                |                       |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Vital signs</b>                            | <b>Normal range</b>            | <b>Average</b>        |
| <b>Rectal temperature</b>                     | 37.5 - 38.5°C (99.5 - 101.3°F) | 38.0°C (100.5°F)      |
| <b>Pulse</b>                                  | 28 - 48 beats per minute       | 36 beats per minute   |
| <b>Respiratory rate</b>                       | 10 - 14 breaths per minute     | 12 breaths per minute |

BEVA Recommendation (2008), cited in NEWC (2009)<sup>1</sup>

| <b>Vital signs for an adult donkey at rest</b> |                              |                     |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Vital signs</b>                             | <b>Normal range</b>          | <b>Average</b>      |
| <b>Rectal temperature</b>                      | 36.2 - 37.8°C (97.2 - 100°F) | 37.1°C (98.8°F)     |
| <b>Pulse</b>                                   | 36 - 52 beats per minute     | 44 beats per minute |
| <b>Respiratory rate</b>                        | 12 - 20 breaths per minute   |                     |

The Donkey Sanctuary (2008). The Professional Handbook of the Donkey (4th edition), cited in NEWC (2009)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NEWC (2009) *Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys (Third Edition)*. Available: [www.newc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Equine-Brochure-09.pdf](http://www.newc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Equine-Brochure-09.pdf)

## MAJOR REGULATORY REFERENCES

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97.
- Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygienic rules for food of animal origin.
- Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at time of killing.
- Council Directive 2009/156/EC of 30 November 2009 on animal health conditions governing the movement and importations from third countries of equidae.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING GOOD ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE?

Anyone involved in the transportation of Equidae either directly or indirectly, for commercial purposes or not, has a responsibility to ensure animals are transported in such a way as to **maintain good health and welfare**. Under *Regulation (EC) 1/2005* the following have legal responsibility:

- Keepers
- Transporters
- Attendants
- Veterinary surgeons
- Operators of assembly centres
- Journey organisers.



## EXAMPLE OF EMERGENCY (CONTINGENCY) PLAN

Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005

### Contingency Plan Template For Type 2 Transporters

Please complete this Contingency Plan and submit to the following address with your application form for a Type 2 Transporter Authorisation:

This generic Contingency Plan is to be completed by the Transporter.

#### Section 1 - Contact Details

|                          |                      |               |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Name of Transporter      | <input type="text"/> |               |                      |
| Address                  | <input type="text"/> |               |                      |
| Contact Telephone Number | <input type="text"/> | Email Address | <input type="text"/> |

#### Section 2 - In case of an emergency:

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 Who is your nominated vehicle breakdown / recovery company?   | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 What action will you take in the event of a traffic accident, road closure or weather conditions delay your journey?    | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 What action will you take if the ferry / shuttle service has been suspended?  | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 What action will you take in the event that your vehicle suffers an irreparable breakdown?                              | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 What action will you take if any animals(s) become ill during the journey?  | <input type="text"/> |
| 6 What action will you take if any animal(s) needs to be euthanised?  | <input type="text"/> |
| 7 What action will you take in the event that you encounter extreme temperatures (either hot or cold) during the journey? | <input type="text"/> |
| 8 What action will you take if there is confirmation of a Notifiable Disease in an area you're travelling through?        | <input type="text"/> |

Transporter Signature

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

Date

## Contingency Plan Template for a Specific Journey

This Contingency Plan is to be completed by the transporter of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and unregistered horses, on journeys over eight hours to other EU Members States or Third Countries.

Please complete this Contingency Plan and submit to the following address with Section 1 of your Journey Log:

### Section 1 – Details of the Journey Log for this Specific Journey

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Organisers Name                  | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 Organisers Journey Log Reference | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 Departure Date                   | <input type="text"/> |

### Section 2 – In case of an emergency please provide contact details and telephone numbers for:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1 Ferry companies if the journey involves sea crossings  | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 Local Animal Health office for the departure premises  | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 Local Animal Health office at the exit point   | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 Veterinarian at the departure premises   | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 Local Authority at the departure premises  | <input type="text"/> |
| 6 Local Authority at the exit point  | <input type="text"/> |
| 7 Police   | <input type="text"/> |
| 8 other organisations that may be able to assist in the event of an emergency.   | <input type="text"/> |
| 9 For transporters reliant on additional modes of transport (e.g. ferry, air and/or rail), the name and address/es of contingency premises to be used in the event of delay. | <input type="text"/> |

Transporter Signature

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

Date

## USEFUL INFORMATION

- Practical Guidelines on the Watering of Equine Animals Transported by Road: [www.worldhorsewelfare.org/guidance](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/guidance)
- OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Section 7, Chapters 7.2 – 7.4: [www.oie.int/doc/ged/D10905.PDF](http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D10905.PDF) (covers transport by sea, land and air)
- IATA Live Animals Regulations: [www.iata.org/publications/pages/live-animals.aspx](http://www.iata.org/publications/pages/live-animals.aspx)
- Welfare Assessment Protocol for Horses during Transport: [www.controlpost.eu/joomla/](http://www.controlpost.eu/joomla/)
- Animal Welfare Indicators: [www.animal-welfare-indicators.net/site/](http://www.animal-welfare-indicators.net/site/)
- Assessing body condition: [www.worldhorsewelfare.org/rightweight](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/rightweight)
- OIE Listed Diseases, Infections and Infestations: [www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2014/](http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2014/)

# If in any doubt



# leave the animal out!

