Protection of Horses during Transport

ANIMALS' ANGELS
we are there with the animals

Animals' Angels is convinced that the only way to significantly improve the protection of horses during transport is to drastically reduce journey times. Transport of horses should therefore be reduced to a maximum of 8 hours.

As long as long distance transports are still legally allowed, veterinarians are, however, in the position to significantly contribute to the protection of horses during transport by enforcing the rules of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. *Were the Regulation leaves space for interpretation veterinarians are under ethical obligation to interpret it in favour of the animals!*

How Veterinarians can improve the Welfare of Horses during transport by enforcing Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

Transports: Long distance (more than 8 hours)

1) **Approval of journey log**
Approve journey log only, if the indicated journey time is realistic in consideration of the distance from place of departure to place of destination (calculate with an average speed of 70km/h). Remember when calculating the journey time that it starts with loading of the first animal and is completed with the unloading of the last animal. As well, the time for the required stops for watering every 8 hours and the rest breaks for the drivers required by the social legislation must be included when calculating the estimated journey time. Approve journey log only, if the expected temperatures on the route do not exceed 30°C.

2) **Fitness for transport**
Carry out a very thorough check of the horses' fitness for transport. Consider the expected temperature on the transport route and the length of the journey.

3) **Transport of "unbroken horses"**
Make sure that only "broken horses" are sent on a transport exceeding 8 hours.
(Make sure that all horses wear halters and are used to be led and tied by the halter.)

4) **Loading density for young horses on transports exceeding 48 hours**
If young horses (6-24 months) are transported for more than 48 hours, remember that the space must be doubled, i.e. the stall of each horse must have a minimum width of 1,2 m. N.B. the time the horses are unloaded at a control post for rest during transport must be included when calculating if 48 hours are exceeded, i.e. each transport, which requires a rest of 24 hours at a control post is automatically longer than 48 hours!

5) **Loading density for young horses on transports exceeding 8 hours**
Remember that for each transport exceeding 8 hours it is legally required that young horses must have sufficient space to lie down, which means that they need to be granted more space than the minimum requirements indicated in the table of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

6) **Water system**
Make sure that the water system is functioning and adequate for horses, i.e. make sure there are enough watering devices in relation to the number of horses to be transported.

7) **Separation**
Make sure that the horses are transported in individual stalls.

8) **Check during loading**
If possible, be present during loading! In this way you can check that the loading conditions and the means of transport comply with the Regulation.

9) **Return of journey log**
Make sure the transporter returns the journey log to you, i.e. to the veterinary service of departure after the transport. Check for compliance of journey times and rest periods. If the transporter fails to return the journey log, don't approve the subsequent transport.

10) **Checks at the place of destination**
Carry out a thorough check on the welfare of the horses, on compliance with journey times and rest periods, loading density, condition of the truck. In case you detect non-conformities, aside from imposing monetary sanctions inform the veterinary office of the place of departure about the violations, as well as the veterinary office where the transporter is registered and the contact points of the interested Member States.

Transports: Short distance (less than 8 hours)

In case the place of departure is a market there are numerous aspects to be checked by the veterinarians.

1. **Check of the means of transport**
Carry out a very thorough check of the trucks and allow only transports with trucks, which dispose of
   a. a roof to protect the horses from inclement weather
   b. an adequate loading ramp (not steeper than an angle of 20 degrees, i.e. 36,4% to the horizontal; anti-slip flooring; lateral protection)
   c. sufficient ceiling height (at least 75 cm above the withers of the tallest horse)

2. **Handling**
Make sure that the horses are not beaten or handled roughly during loading.
Make sure that electric prods are not used on horses.

3. **Separation**
Make sure that horses of significantly different ages and sizes, sexually mature stallions and mares and horses hostile to each are handled and transported separately.

4. **Unbroken horses**
Make sure that unbroken horses are loaded in groups of not more than 4 individuals.

Leo on a transport from Seville (Spain) to Bari (Italy), 2,782km, at least 40 hours on the truck, July 2006

In the name of Leo and all the other horses …

…we demand
a limited journey time of eight hours maximum!