

Regulation of Live Animal Transportation

Volt will strongly regulate the transport of live animals in the EU and ban long term exports of livestock animals to outside the EU.

For farmed animals

For farmed animals, transport should be reduced, refined and replaced by meat/carcasses and semen/embryos as recommended by the European Food Safety Authority¹, World Organization for Animal Health² and Federation of Veterinarians of Europe³.

Species and category-specific journey times with a maximum travel time of:

- 4 hours for poultry and rabbits.
- 8 hours for adult bovines, ovines and swines⁴.

Journey time by land should be defined in the law from the beginning to the end of a journey, including loading and unloading. For sea trips, the time animals spend on the road and until they reach the final destination must be added (not the final harbour).

The exportation to outside the EU should be forbidden to pregnant animals.

Long term live animal transport should be banned to other countries outside the EU.

Livestock vessels must be approved by a EU Authority and shall fulfill the mandatory technical requirements and conditions.

Species and category-specific conditions on fitness for transport, minimum and maximum external temperatures, space allowance, watering and feeding shall be set by law.

¹ Scientific Opinion Concerning the Welfare of Animals during Transport, available at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1966>

² OIE animal welfare standards, available at: <https://www.oie.int/animal-welfare/an-international-network-of-expertise>

³ FVE calls to ensure better animal welfare during animal transport, available at: <https://fve.org/publications/fve-calls-to-ensure-better-animal-welfare-during-animal-transport/>

⁴ Live Animal Transport: Time to change the rules, White Paper on the revision of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005, available at: https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/sites/eurogroup/files/2021-01/2020_01_27_efa_transport_white_paper_0.pdf

For fish and aquatic animals

Water quality parameters will be monitored continuously and maintained throughout the journey.

The handling should be gentle and time out of water must be minimised.

Data necessary for assessing the impact of journeys will be recorded and available to all operators involved in the transport.

Live transport vehicles must be constructed to avoid injury and to monitor and maintain the necessary water quality.

The condition of the fish and their ability to deal with the rigours of transport will be assessed before loading.

Contingency plans must be in place to manage anticipated and unforeseen problems.

Sufficient appropriately trained personnel will be carrying out operations.

For Horses, asses, mules and hinnies

The maximum journey times and adequate as well as fixed rest times must be stated between each stage of the overall journey.

Increase the total resting time and the cleaning of the vehicle to ensure reduced levels of stress.

Better regulation is a matter of public health since we are preventing zoonotic diseases, thus future pandemics.

Member States should provide a high-standard network of authorised control posts and assembly centers solely for equines.

Better training for staff and monitoring to prevent avoidable risks to equine welfare based on the EU Animal Transport Guide.

Voluntary observation via cameras during transport should be strongly recommended.

Guarantee thermally comfortable and well ventilated conditions during transport (in extreme temperatures animals should not travel).

For the commerce of cats and dogs

Member States should have a clear set of rules and should be harmonized at EU level.

Besides the species specific rules effective enforcement must be in place to guarantee legal requirements.

Unclear rules drive illegal pet commerce and trade.

Guarantee a EU common data base for these animals.

For amphibians, zebrafish, rodents, ferrets, minipigs and non human primates transported for scientific purposes

The transport of laboratory animals should be avoided.

Clear and species-specific provisions for laboratory animals shall be set by law, including litter and container enrichment, temperatura ranges, feeding and watering requirements, grouping and density provisions.

Trained to handle, transport and care for these animals, shall be present during the entire journey except where the driver or the transporter performs the functions of the attendant.

Journey logs should be improved with data during the transportation.

Guides for good practises must be translated in all EU languages and disseminated among all Member States.

Clear and species-specific provisions for transport of laboratory animals by air shall be set.

Announced and unannounced controls shall be carried out by Member States to assess compliance.

Geolocation Systems designed to track the animals localization, the duration as well as any non-compliance with transport schedules.

Annual reports submitted each year by Member States on the inspections carried out shall include a detailed description related to laboratory animals.