

# TRANSPORTING LACTATING ANIMALS



Anyone transporting a lactating animal in Canada needs to meet specific requirements to make sure the animal is fit for the intended journey.

## Step 1: Assess the lactating animal before transporting it

Is the animal comfortable, with no signs of pain or udder engorgement?

(signs of engorgement can include hardness, redness, pain, and heat of the udder)

YES

Move on to Step 2

NO



Do not transport an unfit animal. Animals with udder/mammary engorgement are considered unfit for transport.

## Step 2: Assess the risk factors related to lactation during transport

Are any of the following practices being used to prevent mammary engorgement if the animal has not been dried off?

- ✓ Reaching her final destination before becoming engorged
- ✓ Travelling with her suckling offspring
- ✓ Being milked en route

YES

GO!

Max 36 hrs without feed, water or rest for ruminants.

Move on to Step 3

## NO OR UNKNOWN

The animal is compromised and must be transported as such.



Max 12 hrs without feed, water, or rest. The animal is compromised and will need to be milked regularly to prevent engorgement.

## Step 3: Monitor en route

Is the animal still ok?

Keep an eye on animals in heavy lactation since they are at higher risk of becoming engorged or feeling pain; monitor accordingly!

NO

Take the following actions because this animal has become **compromised** or **unfit** en route:

- ✓ Take measures to prevent suffering
- ✓ Go directly to the nearest suitable place for care, for humane killing or humanely kill in conveyance.

YES

Continue the transport journey.

## DEFINITIONS



UNFIT

An unfit animal can only be transported directly to a place to receive veterinary care and under the recommendation of a veterinarian.



COMPROMISED

A compromised animal can only be transported directly for slaughter or to a place to receive care for its condition. It cannot be transported to an assembly centre or auction market.



## REQUIREMENTS

if transporting an **unfit** or **compromised** animal

- Isolate the animal
- Load or unload the animal alone without negotiating interior ramps
- Take special measures to prevent unnecessary suffering

