

Transport Decision Tree

IS THE HORSE FIT FOR THE TRIP?

YES 📥



• A horse that has any condition that could reduce the horse's ability to withstand

the rigours of the trip

NO 4

IS THE HORSE UNFIT OR COMPROMISED?

UNFIT

Do Not Load - Do Not Transport

Except for veterinary treatment on the advice of a veterinarian

- Fracture or any other severe injury¹
- Sick or diseased horses (e.g. strangles, herpes virus, pneumonia)
- Lame (Classes 3,4,5; See reverse)
- Fever due to illness
- Acute frostbite
- Colic
- Exhaustion
- Dehydration
- Recent major surgery
- In shock or dying
- Emaciation
- Weakness
- Non-ambulatory (i.e., downer, unable to rise on its own)
- Likely to give birth or has given birth within 48 hours
- Suspected or confirmed nervous disorder (e.g., Rabies)
- Uterine, vaginal or rectal prolapse
- Laboured breathing

¹ Severe injury includes deep or gaping wounds, profuse bleeding, penis injuries, severe head injuries, scrotal hernias, and severe laminitis.

COMPROMISED Transport with Special Provisions

(See reverse for transport regulations)

- Horses that are blind in both eyes
- Very young foals or young orphan foals
- Lame horses (Classes 1,2; See reverse)
- Geriatric horses
- **Special Provisions:**1. Compromised horses must only be transported locally and directly to the nearest
- suitable place where they can receive care and attention, or be humanely slaughtered or euthanized.
- 2. A compromised animal must be the last animal loaded and the first animal unloaded.
- 3. A compromised animal must be segregated from all other animals, or it may be penned with **one** familiar animal

Note: To prevent undue suffering, other special provisions, such as additional bedding, may be required, depending on the condition of the compromised animal. Always ask a veterinarian if you are unsure about the appropriate special provision when moving a compromised animal. Animals that require special provisions must be segregated from other animals.

What is the Meaning of "Nearest Suitable Place"? Compromised animals that are fit for transport are not to go through auction markets or assembly yards. If compromised animals are to be sent to slaughter, they must not travel long distances to the slaughter facility, even if the only slaughter facility is far away. If local slaughter facilities are unavailable, animals should either be treated or be humanely euthanized. If an animal becomes compromised during the journey, consider the nearest suitable place (that is, a nearby veterinary hospital, farm, auction market or assembly yard, slaughter plant) where the animal can receive care or be euthanized.

Content for the Transport Decision Tree was created by the Equine Code Development Committee and is based on the Health of Animals Regulations.



Transport Decision Tree (continued)

Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Horses

Federal Transport Regulations (as of 2012)

www.inspection.gc.ca

DO

- Segregate animals of different species or substantially different weights and ages; or if incompatible by nature (i.e., stallions, jacks); mares with suckling foals; and horses with shoes on their hind legs.
- Ensure that animals segregated in trucks receive extra protection from cold and wind chill; supply ample bedding.
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage and absorption of urine.
- Have sufficient headroom for animals to stand in a natural position.
- Either strew the vehicle with sand or have the vehicle fitted with safe footholds, in addition to proper bedding.
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at the rest stop for a minimum of five hours or longer to ensure all animals receive feed and water.

DO NOT

- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- Mishandle an animal at loading or unloading.
- Use electric goads or prods.
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers not designed for the safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

Lameness Classes

These categories can be used to determine the status of an animal's mobility, from normal to non-ambulatory.

Transport as Soon as Possible

Class 1

Visibly lame but can keep up with the group.

Class 2

Unable to keep up; some difficulty climbing ramps. Load in rear compartment.

Do Not Load or Transport*

Class 3

Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

Class 4

Requires assistance to rise; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

Class 5

Unable to rise or remain standing.

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^{*} Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4 or 5, may be transported for veterinary treatment on the advice of a veterinarian.