



# TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

*Corresponds with Requirement 13.0*

All horses must be loaded, transported, and unloaded in a manner that is both humane and safe. All caregivers that perform or assist with transporting horses have been trained to adhere to this protocol. All individuals are expected to comply with all transport requirements in the Health of Animals Regulations.

This document can be accessed at: [https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/c.r.c., c. 296/page-10.html#h-548075](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/c.r.c.,_c._296/page-10.html#h-548075)

## **Pre-transport:**

Horses are assessed for fitness prior to being loaded for transport with consideration of all relevant transport factors (e.g., total duration of anticipated trip, prevailing weather conditions). Unfit horses are not transported, except to receive veterinary care on the advice of a veterinarian.

## **If the facility cares for gestating mares:**

Mares in the last 10% of their gestation periods are not transported. If the expected duration of the horse's transport time without access to feed or water is longer than 24 hours, horses must be fed and watered within 4 hours of being loaded.

The individual doing the transporting must provide written proof of a contingency plan to *(insert name)* \_\_\_\_\_ before leaving the property.

This contingency plan must include: a plan for unforeseen delays or circumstances that might compromise the horse's welfare, and if a horse becomes compromised at any point during loading, travel, and unloading.

## **Loading:**

All horses must be handled and loaded by those who are knowledgeable in this process. Horses must be loaded in a humane manner.



This means a horse cannot be:

- Beaten, struck, whipped, or kicked, particularly if it does not have a clear path to move forward.
- Moved using an electric prod.
- Dragged.
- Lifted or moved by its tail.
- Horses must be loaded and unloaded in a safe environment using chutes and ramps that are appropriate for horses, as needed. Loading areas should be well-lit and non-slip.
- Ramps, gangways, chutes, and other pathways used to load horses cannot have a slope exceeding 30°.

#### **During transport:**

Horses may only be shipped in containers that are an appropriate size (i.e., the horse must be able to stand on all four feet with its head raised, have a full range of head motion, and not touch the ceiling). Horses must also be able to move in a way that allows them to avoid injury and crushing/trampling. Horses should not be shipped in vehicles with multiple decks.

Adequate ventilation and protection from weather conditions for the full duration of the trip must be ensured. Horses must be transported on an appropriate bedding material to absorb liquid waste.

Incompatible animals must be safely separated from one another. Mares with suckling offspring, and mature stallions must be segregated from all other animals during transport.

Horses must not be without access to feed, water, or rest for more than 28 hours, after which they must have a rest period of at least 8 consecutive hours before resuming their journey.

#### **Unloading:**

Horses must be loaded and unloaded in a safe environment using chutes and ramps that are appropriate for horses, as needed. Unloading areas should be well-lit and non-slip. Ramps, gangways, chutes, and other pathways used to unload horses cannot have a slope exceeding 30°. Horses are individually assessed and provided with water upon arrival to the facility.