

## Hot weather

### Advice to Farmers and other animal owners

High temperatures and humidity, particularly sudden changes in conditions, can pose a major threat to animal welfare. The following basic advice is to help farmers, transporters, pet owners and others avoid problems.

It is particularly important in hot weather that animals have access to shade and water. Livestock keepers should inspect their animals often and take the necessary action to correct any problems.

### Transporting livestock animals in hot weather

Transporters are required by law not to transport animals in a way that is likely to cause injury or undue suffering. Transporters must check their intended route is safe and clear before any journey commences.

Bedding must be supplied for calves under 6 months, foals under 4 months, piglets under 10kgs and lambs under 20kgs. This bedding must guarantee the animals comfort in the prevailing weather conditions.

For journeys over 8 hours, ventilation systems on vehicles must be capable of maintaining the temperature in the animal compartment above 0 degrees centigrade.

A "*Livestock transport vehicles: a guide to best practice on vehicle ventilation*" is available from the following web link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-transport-vehicles-a-guide-to-best-practice-for-vehicle-ventilation>

Contingency plans should be in place for every journey, and are particularly important in hot conditions. Delays, which might be relatively insignificant under normal conditions, can become critical very quickly in high temperatures. Things to consider include (although this is not an exhaustive list):

- Factoring potential weather conditions into the planning of any journey (for example not loading or moving animals during the hottest parts of the day)
- Improved ventilation of the vehicle
- Increased space allowances
- Providing water more frequently

Advice and guidance on how to complete contingency plans for specific journeys and templates are available on the APHA website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-transport-contingency-plan-template-for-specific-journey>

## **Markets**

It is a legal requirement that no one shall cause or permit injury or suffering, whatever the cause, in a market. This also extends to periods during severe weather. Water provision at markets is absolutely essential. Where markets are unable to provide such alternative supplies in instances of mains delivery failure then markets should not proceed to operate.