Practical Guidelines to Assess the Fitness for Transport of Equidae
(Horses, ponies, donkeys and their hybrids)

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“No animal shall be transported unless it is **fit for the intended journey**, and all shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering”

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, Annex I, Chapter 1
The reality
Stakeholder platform

- Veterinarians
- Transporters
- Meat industry
- Sports industry
- Researchers
- NGOs
Scope of the Guidelines

• All Equidae
• All parties involved in equine transport
• All main forms of equine transport
• All stages of the journey
What the Guidelines aren’t

- **Not** legally binding
- **Not** used to make a diagnosis
- **Not** just for those transporting for economic purposes
THE GUIDELINES
UNABLE TO STAND, UNABLE TO MAINTAIN BALANCE OR SEVERE LAMENESS

Lameness is an abnormality in the way that an animal moves, reducing its ability to use one or more of its legs in a normal manner.

Unfit for transport
- If the animal shows any of the following signs:
  - Stumbling, staggering or falling
  - Inability to:
    - Stand or remain standing
    - Maintain balance
    - Move without signs of pain (see pages 26-27)
  - Bear any weight on one of its legs

Do not transport
Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action

Fit for transport
- If the animal:
  - Is in good general health
  - Can bear weight equally on all legs
  - Shows no signs of pain

EXHAUSTION

Unfit for transport
If the animal shows any of the following signs:
- Indifference to surroundings (unresponsive, ‘shut-down’, depressed, persistently refusing to eat and/or drink)
- Inability to stand and/or move
- Stumbling and/or loss of balance when moving
- Collapse

Do not transport
Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action

Further assessment required
If the animal shows any of the following signs:
- Lethargy
- Lying down for long periods
- Reluctance to stand
- Leaning or resting head on objects or surfaces

Seek veterinary advice
Turn to page 43 and follow the course of action

Fit for transport
- If the animal:
  - Is in good general health
  - Is alert, attentive and responsive to its environment
  - Shows no signs of pain (refer to pages 26-27)

To enable adequate rest, including deep sleep, Equidae should have the opportunity to lie down within a 24 hour period.
Where are we now?

- Guidelines drafted and designed
- Awaiting:
  - Forewords
  - Decision on host website
  - Final approval from all stakeholders

ALMOST AT THE END....
Thank you for all your support and all pictures provided!
The Stakeholder Platform

- Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA)
- World Horse Welfare
- Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
- Eurogroup for Animals
- European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV)
- Austrian Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons
- Italian Equestrian Federation (FISE)
- Animal Welfare Indicators Network (AWIN)
- Animals’ Angels
- Animal Transport Association (ATA)
- Belgium Confederation of the Horse
- COPA-COGECA – TBC