

Cattle welfare

Owners and those looking after cattle have a legal responsibility to protect the welfare of animals at all times.

Evidence suggests visible and bacterial cleanliness declines with increasing transport time and distance.

It is advisable to modify the diet, or to withdraw food for a short time before transport, to reduce faecal soiling.

Feeding a straw diet for 1-2 days prior to transport has been shown to be beneficial. When animals are transported to market or slaughter the following points should be considered:

- use a reputable haulier/transporter
- consider pre-transport diet
- vehicles clean, disinfected and well ventilated
- adequate clean and fresh straw bedding
- animals dry at loading and kept dry throughout, up to the point of slaughter
- mixing animals avoided

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